



Volume 24 Issue 8
August 2016

CONTENTS

Page 2

Officers &

Committees

Treasurer's Report

Refreshment

Reminder

Page 3

President's Message

Page 4

Membership Notes

Page 5-6

Meeting Minutes

Page 7-8-9

Speaker Segment

Page 10-11

Show Table

Page 12

Millions of Orchids

Page 13

Orchid Library

Page 14-15

AOS Culture Sheet on
Paphiopedilums

Page 16-17

AOS Culture Sheet on
Cymbidiums

THE KEIKI



The next meeting of the Orchid Lover's Club will be
1:00 pm Saturday August 20th At The VFW Post,
County Line Road, and 18940 Drayton Street, in
Spring Hill

Our speakers this month are Brett and Ruth Ullery
from Accent orchids in St Petersburg.

Their specialty is Dendrobiums

Check them out on Facebook

We had a large turn out for the July meeting.



*Newer members—See pages 14 -17 for AOS
Culture Sheets on Paphiopedilums and Cymbidiums*

OFFICERS

President

Jeff Rundell

1st Vice President & Past President

Geary Harris

2nd Vice President

Donna Fazekas

Treasurer

Helen Battistrada

Executive Secretary

Pat Dupke

Recording Secretary (not elected position)

Matt Riesz

COMMITTEES

Membership

Linda Meyer & Gloria Thomas

Publicity

Julie Smolka

Website

Set up by Ken Dunn

Webmaster Bob East

Bulletin (The Keiki)

Ken & Delia Dunn

Refreshments

Laurie Ciannamea & Pat Dupke

Trips

Sonia Terrelonge & Laurie Ciannamea

Show Table Report

Matt Riesz



Treasurer's Report

By Helen Battistrada

Previous Balance: 6/15/16 \$7202.49

Raffle receipts \$156.00

Membership dues 111.00

Name pin 11.00

Receipts: \$278.00

AOS Judging Fund donation \$ 75.00

Program 150.00

Keiki costs 75.99

1 Month storage 40.00

Stamps for treasurer 9.40

Bank charge 3.00

Disbursements: \$353.39

Current Balance: 7/13/16 \$7132.10

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

By: *Laurie Ciannamea*

FOOD

Pat Dupke

Tom Govin

Kishore Sooknanan

Trudy Domann

Pat Yacco



SODA or JUICE

Barb Dean

Marie Tanaka

Rianda Schultz

Extra Juice or Soda Contributions
would be welcome



President's Message

by Jeff Rundell

As I write this I am in "white tornado mode" preparing for departure to my former home 1,500 miles due north. My pet caretaker, a wonderful British lady, is also watching over my home and my orchids. Which do you think worries me the most? I am hoping for some refreshing cool air, but in the Adirondacks, "cool" means anything above zero. What's worse is that I have 3 plants, including a Cymbidium, that are first time bloomers and are currently budded out. What's wrong with this picture? Recall what I said about OD (orchid dementia) before? The trip will also give me the opportunity to commiserate with my former orchid club (population approximately 10) that meets in places like bowling allies where the patrons stare suspiciously.

Our speakers this month are Brett and Ruth Ullery from Accent orchids in St Petersburg. Their specialty is Dendrobiums but if you check their Facebook page you will see a variety of other beautiful, well grown orchids. You may also recall they were vendors at our last show.

Dendrobiums are a huge and varied genus. There are at least 1,200 species mostly from SE Asia. I often wonder why this area is such a hotbed of biological diversity. From southern China to Australia the variety of plant life, and orchids in particular, is stunning but profoundly endangered. Many of these orchids have a sympodial branching pattern with thick canes instead of the pseudobulbs we see in Cattleyas. Some shed their leaves and rest in the dry winters, blooming on bare canes that look like something you should have pruned off months ago. It's hard to stop watering and fertilizing as I learned long ago but the choice is between having a vegetative jungle or a cascade of beautiful blooms.

Some Dendrobiums are edible and make a cool garnish.

They are also one of the 50 fundamental herbs of Chinese medicine. Perhaps their most surprising attribute is their ability to remove hydrocarbons from the air. Too bad you can't attach them to your car's tailpipe. There are so many hybrids I can't possibly go there, but I will mention my favorite species (see pix). It's the beautifully cascading little light purple *Dendrobium culcatatum*. On the other side I wonder about a Den. hybrid named for Margaret Thatcher the former "Iron Lady" prime minister of the U.K. I wonder if this plant is stiffer than others and has a big heavy purse attached to it? But the scariest *Dendrobium* by far is the one that appears on the emblem of North Korea.

Finally I hope you will have received an email by this time trumpeting our success in purchasing the supplies you signed up for along with firming up plans for our best auction ever. Thanks for all your support, even when I stray afield at our meetings and write things like this. See you at the meeting and bring your plants!





Membership Notes

By *Linda Meyer*

The July meeting of the Orchid Lover's Club was another in a series of increasingly exciting events, with 60 members signing in...and that's more than half of our new total membership of 112! This includes our 4 newest members who came as interested guests and joined on the spot. There were also 11 guests signing, whom we hope we'll be seeing on our membership roster soon. Please let's all welcome:

Patricia Yacco

and her sister

Darlene Chicarelli

352-382-7101

goosezak@tampabay.rr.com

1823 Cypress Blvd. East

Homosassa, FL 34446

David Anible

727-848-2303

55danible@gmail.com

3649 Rockaway Dr.

Holiday, FL 34691

Roopandi Sooknanan (Kishore's wife)

727-267-2349

4307 Dewberry St.

Spring Hill, FL 34608

Thank you for all your avid participation in our meetings. It makes the prospect of our club picnic, annual auction and Holiday party all that much more exciting! Meanwhile, bring a friend to the next meeting in August—see you then.

Linda Meyer,

Membership Chair

An Orchid Quiz

Which fictional detective was known for growing orchids?

___ Philip Marlowe ___ Sherlock Holmes
___ Nero Wolfe ___ Agatha Christie

Check on the bottom of page 14 for the answer.



Stay tuned for more information on an upcoming talk by our own Matt Reisz! He will be talking on the basics of orchid care which he has entitled '*What to do with my orchid now*' and part of it will be a discussion on '*What's in an orchid name and why you should care*'. This is a highly interesting subject and we hope to hear Matt speak in September! **STAY TUNED!**



OLCOSH Minutes

July 16, 2016

Jeff Rundell called the meeting to order, using his gavel. He called attention to the members' raffle plant, a large and beautiful Vanda, donated by our speaker, Donna Goodwin. She's a world-renowned vanda grower so this is very special. She also brought many plants for sale.

Gary moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Helen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the membership.

Membership Report: Linda Meyer reported that we had several guests at the meeting, and all were warmly welcomed by the members. Our membership and attendance at the meetings is growing and we're delighted to see that. Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings as our guest and on the third meeting we will ask for membership dues of \$17 for one person or \$25 for a couple. We had 52 members in attendance. Linda noted that by signing in, you are then eligible for the members' plant raffle. Linda did not order membership pins last month, as only one member requested one, but they will be ordered soon. Pins are \$11 each, and are magnetic so they will not damage your clothing. See Linda and give her a check made out to OLCOSH.

**Treasurer, Helen Battistrada, gave the financial report showing a Balance last month of \$7,207.49
Receipts of \$278.00 Disbursements: \$353.39
Final balance \$7132.10**

Jeff described our meetings for the benefit of guests and new members:

We usually have a speaker, who brings orchids for sale and talks about a topic of special interest or expertise.

We also have a Show Table, where members bring their plants in flower to show to each other. We encourage members to bring plants for show. If you have a problem plant you can bring that too

and get advice on how to handle it. Please keep those plants separate from the others, just to be safe. We have a lot of expertise in the membership, and chances are good that someone will be able to help.

Next, we have a raffle table. Richard is selling raffle tickets, and all of the plants on the table will go to lucky winners. Tickets are \$1 for 1, \$2 for 3 or \$5 for 10. There are more than 20 plants this month. The club would like to thank Joyce Fowler of Joy Orchids for providing the raffle plants!

Today, Yati Douglas also brought some beautiful pins and other orchid-related items that are for sale.

We also have a large library of orchid books. These are great books, many no longer available in print and with a vast amount of orchid information including pictures. We don't keep them at the meeting, but our Librarian, Tom Govin, takes care of them and has worked with Delia Dunn to come up with a process for lending them. Tom and Delia will put them online, with the title and subject area for each book, and add an order form on line. You can tell Tom, on the web site order form, which book you want and he'll bring it to the next meeting for you.

Jeff thanked Ken for yet another great Keiki. We've seen newsletters from many other orchid societies, and none of them compare to ours. The articles are very helpful and informative, and the writeup of our speaker's talk on bulbophyllums last meeting by Kara was excellent especially if you weren't paying close attention or missed the meeting. GREAT job, Ken and Delia!

Tim also gets information from the Keiki to print in hardcopy and distribute to members who do not have internet access. This is difficult when the submissions on the website come in so many formats. So we ask that members use a standard format, specifically either Microsoft Word or plain

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text (without a carriage return on every line) when sending submissions. Please send them to Tim before pasting them on the website.

Jeff discussed the October 1st club trip (we love trips!). We'll be going to Sarasota to visit Selby Gardens and then Tropiflora. Dennis Cathcart at Tropiflora has a huge collection of bromeliads and air plants, and an orchid house run by Rafael from Venezuela. See last month's Keiki for details on the orchids. There will also be a food vendor there. Our committee, Sonia Terrelonge, Laurie Ciannamea and Yati Douglas, looked into renting a bus but due to the complexity of arranging it and the commitment required in advance, we have decided to go with individual drivers. We already have 4 or 5 drivers, and we want to make sure everyone who wants to go can go. We will try to all appear at Selby Gardens at the same time, so we can get the reduced admission rate (\$15) available there for groups. Normal admission is \$19.00. Selby does a lot of orchid research, and we might be able to get into their orchid supply greenhouses which would be very special. No promises yet though. They also have a large conservatory filled with many orchids including some rare ones. We'll need a definite commitment from attendees probably by next month's meeting. We'll meet at a central location and try to go as a group. Payment will not be required in advance – maybe just on the day of :: the trip.

Tim and Judy made a trip to Apopka for orchid materials, and brought back some *Orchiata bark*, which is supposed to be resistant to rot, PH-neutral, and last a long time. We already doled out twelve gallon containers at \$4 apiece. We have two full bags left, and 10 names down which we will take in order. We will also be getting more, so if you want some put your name on the list. Jeff passed around an "Orchid Lover's Wish List" of supplies not available locally, for people to write what they would like. If enough people want something we will try to get some on our next trip. Jeff noted that pine bark IS available at Everlast in Spring Hill for \$25 per two cubic feet. Jeff

discussed some of the many other things that might be available.

Our Auction will be the third Saturday (19th) in November at the 1st United Methodist Church on Spring Hill Dr. We still need members to donate plants. Keep us in mind as you report and divide plants. Please try to put good labels on the plants, as they're important to some buyers and will help us get a better price. But even unlabeled plants are OK. No sick plants, or ones with any kind of pests, please! We might take consignment plants. Jeff talked to Suzanne Farnsworth about her approach to consignments. We might also buy some plants and try to make a profit on them, and are also exploring other alternatives. This is our major fundraiser and it's important that we do well.

Linda Hindman brought a lot of orchid-related hardware to the meeting, which were offered to the members at no charge as she does not want them in her garage any longer.

Jeff asked for volunteers to evaluate the show table and got four people. Linda also suggested that the several members who come from farther away (north of Hernando County) might like to contact each other and carpool to the meetings. She asked for, and got, a show of hands.

We took a refreshment break and did the show table judging.

After refreshments the Show Table plants were discussed and we enjoyed a great talk from our speaker, Donna Goodwin.

Our August speaker will be Accent Orchids.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Reisz

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 that a change is needed. THANK YOU!

kdunn004@tampabay.rr.com



July Speaker

By Kara Warnock

This month's speaker was Donna Goodwin from Goodwin Orchids out of Leesburg, FL. For those of you who are not familiar with Goodwin Orchids they are known for growing some spectacularly beautiful Vanda orchids. Donna and her husband Duane have been growing and selling orchids commercially now for 18 years. The property that their greenhouse is located on was purchased by Duane's grandfather for agriculture use by the family in 1919. The Goodwin's have been growing orchids in some form or another on the property since 1970.

The Vandas that grow are sourced from Thailand. The selection and buying process of the orchids has certainly changed over the years since they first started growing back in 1970 when Duane's father started growing orchids, you would send a letter by mail to Thailand and wait for a response with a list of orchid varieties that they had available, and if you were lucky the letter might also include a photograph of an orchid. Fast forward to today, where they just get online and Face Time which allows them to instantly see the plant flower and decide that it is the one they want. All of the plants they bring into their nursery are hand selected for health and quality. Donna personally drives to Miami to pickup their orders from the customs department at the airport. She has strict instructions from Duane that once she has picked up the plants she is to drive straight home and not stop at any locations to sightsee. Once their plants arrive at their property, they along with workers (orchid club members who will work for plants) unpack and hang up all plants. In less than 24 hours from the time the plants were picked up from customs they are already hanging up and aerating in their greenhouse. Vandas like to be watered thoroughly and not just spritzed with a spray bottle. You cannot over water them,

But if you are stingy with the hose it is possible to under water them. It is best to water them daily in the morning using your garden hose to provide them with a thorough soaking (or 2-3 times a week watering, minimum). During times of warm weather you will need to water more frequently because the roots will dry out quicker, and during the cooler months you can water a little less. Donna suggests that you water Vandas first then go water all your other plants, and when you are done doing that come back and hose them down again.

To fertilize their orchids they use Peters 20-20-20 fertilizer. The Scotts Company now owns Peters, and the product is sold only to growers as Peters Professional in 25lb bags. However, if you see a product in the home improvement stores called Jack's Classic that is the original Peters formula. Donna says they feed their plants weakly, weekly with a ratio of 2 tsp. gal during warm weather and reducing to 1 tsp. gal during the cooler months. Every fourth watering they use a bloom booster, which is a 10-30-20 formula. The bloom booster formula reduces the Nitrogen, which provides the plants a signal and if it is already close to it's flowering period then the plant should bloom. The increased Phosphorus in the bloom booster formula will intensify the brilliance of the flower color. Also once a month they blend Super-thrive (a liquid vitamin product) with their bloom buster to help provide vigor to the plant and promote root growth. Each time you plan to fertilize your plants make sure to mix up your fertilizer fresh. Once mixed with water your fertilizing solution should be used within 14 days, otherwise it will degrade and not provide any benefit to your plants.

Vanda are not the type of orchids that you can grow indoors. You are best to find a location that they like outdoors that provides plenty of shade but yet dappled sunlight. Ideal locations might be under a tree, a patio/lanai, or pergola. With Southern exposure to light being preferred.

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Vandas enjoy being outside where they receive humidity. Plenty of air movement for healthy roots, and this time of the year they benefit from extra watering they receive from our afternoon showers.

Vandas can tolerate low temperatures of 38-39F (if acclimated gradually) and can survive even a few hours of below freezing temperatures with no ill effects if in a sheltered area protected from frost. However, the plants that they grow in their greenhouses rarely see temperatures below 49deg.F since they need to have nice looking blooming plants for the spring orchid shows. You may notice that your Vandas growth and/or metabolism will slow down during the cooler months.

Vanda orchids do not require pots to grow in and they are therefore one plant you will never have to worry about repotting. Most Vandas are sold growing in either a plastic or wooden basket. However, you do not even have to grow them in a basket if you don't want to since they grow hydroponically. A wire hanger or "s" hook and twist ties to secure the plant would be sufficient. Because Vandas do not grow in a potting mix they do not get many of the other pests that most orchid species have to deal with. Their biggest threat are thrips, a small, sucking insect, which tend to attack the flowers of the plant causing a brown halo discoloration along the edges of the flowers. There is no way to prevent thrips from occurring on your plants, you can only care for the problem by spraying with Malathion when it happens.

Some of us may have what Donna affectionately refers to as a "palm tree" Vanda, which is where due to stress or other factors the plant has lost its lower leaves yet continues its monopodial growth at the top. You can eventually separate the top, healthy part of the plant from the base once there are at least three roots the size of drinking straws located high on the stem. Once a top cut has been made it may take a little while for the plant to recover in order to re-bloom. Any keikis that form on the mother plant can also be separated to create

individual plants (if desired) by using the same technique. Leaving the keikis on the mother plant will create an overall "bushy" appearance to the plant, however, the keikis and the mother plant will bloom together at the same time creating a spectacular display of flowers.

Vandas are susceptible to Thai disease, a diamond-shaped, black, streaky, raised (scabby) fungus that occurs on the leaves. Duane has been told that you could shellac the leaves using clear nail polish in order to prevent further reproduction of the fungus by preventing the fungal spores from blooming and spreading. Plants affected with this fungal disease are removed from the greenhouse and sent to live in their "Leper Colony" situated outside under their trees. They spray the plants in their greenhouse as a preventative measure using a copper based bactericide called Phyton 27 (new formula available as Phyton 23).

The Goodwin's grow approximately 5,000 plants in their greenhouse. The majority of the Vandas they grow and sell will bloom for their new owners at least twice a year. The Ascocendas (now technically classified with Vandas) they offer will bloom more often, up to three and four times a year. They also have a few species, Rhynchostylis, which only bloom once a year. Because it can take up to 5 years for Vandas to get from seed pod to their first blooming: they only stock blooming sized plants in their nursery. Approximately 80% of the plants that they grow are clones: meaning what you see featured in their "display" plants are what you are expected to get. Only 20% of their plants originate from seed pods where you will have variation in the way the flowers look, and may have the next beauty queen on your hands.

If you would like to visit Goodwin Orchids yourself they are located at *2902 South Street (SR33) in Leesburg, FL. It is best to call (352-787-9003) for an appointment before driving out just to make sure they are not at a show or other engagement.*

(continued on next page)



Some of the beautiful Vandas from the Goodwin Greenhouses

Donna indicated they will be at the Tampa show September 10 and 11 and the Green Thumb Festival in St. Petersburg April 22 and 23, 2017.

A word of thanks to the members who help make the Keiki a great monthly publication for the Orchid Lover's Club.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Helen Battistrada | Treasurer's Report |
| Laura Ciannamea | Refreshment Reminder |
| Delia Dunn | Color Coordination of the Keiki and fact checker |
| Tom Gavin | Library Report |
| Linda Meyer | Membership Report |
| Matt Riesz | Show Table Report and Member Meeting Minutes |
| Jeff Rundell | President's Report |
| Tim Smith | Converting Keiki and mailing to non-e-mail members |
| Kara Warnock | Speaker Segment |

July 16th		SHOW TABLE PLANTS		By Matt Riesz	
<i>Blue Ribbon given to plants in blue print</i>					
PLANT NAME	GROWER	HOW LONG			
		Owned	Growing		
V. sanderiana	Gary Gethen				
Den. bullenianum (orange)	Gary Gethen				
Onc. Rosy Sunset 'F'	Pat Dupke	6 mos	26 yrs		
Blc. Keowee 'Newberry'	Sonia Terrelonge				
Paph. Hsinying Web X P. Hsinying Magic	Caitlin DiCristofalo	2 mos	8 yrs		
Blc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua' HCC/AOS	Gary Gethen				
Paph. Ermine (white)	Gary Gethen				
Vascostylis Crownfox Magic	Caitlin DiCristofalo	1 yr	8 yrs		
No ID	Kishore Sooknanan	1 yr			
No ID	Kishore Sooknanan	1 yr			
No ID	Kishore Sooknanan	1 yr			
No ID	Kishore Sooknanan	1 yr			
No ID	Kishore Sooknanan	1 yr			
No ID	Jeff Rundell		30 yrs		
Blc. Empress Worsley	Jeff Rundell	10 yrs	30 yrs		
Pyp. Mariposa	Javon Parker	4 yrs	20 yrs		
Bllra. Diana Dunn	Javon Parker	3 yrs	20 yrs		
No ID	Pat Dupke	1 yr	26 yrs		
Paph. Ho Chi Minh (delenatii X vietnamense)	Wendy Paracka	1 mo	1 yr		
Den. Thailand White	Wendy Paracka	1 mo	1 yr		
Epi. magnoliae	Wallie Hammer	5 mos	30 yrs		
Bc. Yellow Bird	Wallie Hammer	5 yrs	30 yrs		
Enc. alata	Wallie Hammer	1 yr	30 yrs		
C. purpurata 'Richard Miller'	Julie Smolka				
Ascosenda Krailerk White X V. Chaiya	Jeff Rundell	6 yrs	30 yrs.		
V. Precious Memories X V. Kasem's Delight	Jeff Rundell		30 yrs.		

Matt checks members' plant names on ORCHIDWIZ that we list on our Entry Forms for the Show Table so that we can be sure all the names shown are absolutely correct. In the list this month, he did find one cross that is registered. If you bring in a cross (a hybrid) you should look on the Show Table Plant List in the Keiki, each month, to see if your cross has a registered name. Matt does the research for you and reports the correct information. We thank Matt very much for this extra work he volunteered to do :)

It is noted that this time there are many plants that had no information whatsoever except the owner's name. That is exceptionally unhelpful. Could we suggest that if you do not know what type of orchid you have perhaps you could ask someone at the meeting, so you can at least put down whether it's a Phal, Paph, Cattleya, etc. By knowing what plant you have it is easy to find something about how to care for it. The newsletter editor would suggest you look at the list of books available in our library and find one that might help you with your orchid. The library list is available on the club website:

Pictures of Blue Ribbon Winners, July 16th



Our photographer missed one of our winners last month. We don't get them all unfortunately.



Millions of Orchids are Now Growing in a Hundred-Acre Wetland

Millions of orchids are now growing in a hundred-acre wetland in the Adirondack Park that developed on waste from a vast open-pit iron mine, a transformation scientists say is most impressive because it happened naturally.

"It's a testament to nature's ability to heal itself," said Grete Bader, a graduate student who recently wrote her master's thesis about the plant life at the former Benson Mines, about 35 miles from the Canadian border.

The wetland, which remains privately owned and off limits to the public, formed on part of thousands of acres of coarse sand left over when granite ore was crushed to extract iron from 1900 until 1978. That bare sand eventually gave way to moss, lichen, grasses, sedges and trees, including willows, poplars and tamaracks.



Orchids arrived as dust-like seeds from surrounding areas. The wetland is now home to six species of bog orchids, including millions of *rose pogonias* (*L*) and *grass pinks* (*R*).

Several factors contribute to the thriving plant community at the site, Bader said, including a variety of fungi that colonize a plant's root system and enhance its ability to absorb nutrients.

"What's really cool to me as a plant ecologist is how this site went from bare mine tailings to a diverse wetland plant community over the past 60 years on its own, without any formal restoration initiative," Bader said during a recent visit to the site. Bader and Leopold suggest that the site would be a worthy addition to the Adirondack Forest Preserve if the owner was interested in selling it to the state.

But the landowner's lawyer says there are no plans to sell the land or allow public access.

"Benson Mines wasn't even aware of the orchids until the researchers made them public," said attorney Bernard Melewski.

He said the orchid site is a small part of about 2,000 acres of sand and crushed stone mining waste that the company hopes to ship to markets when a nearby railroad spur is renovated.

Even if the site remains untouched by development, the orchids may be a fleeting phenomenon as the natural forces that brought them here continue to reshape the landscape. Already, an aggressive non-native reed called phragmites is choking out other plants in large swaths of the wetland.

"The orchids here today require full sun," Bader said. "Between invasive plants and natural succession to a closed canopy tamarack-black spruce bog, we're going to see them decline"





© Can Stock Photo

All about our Club Library

The Club Library is up and running. We have over 50 books about growing and showing orchids, all written to help you be a better Orchid grower.

How do you get your hands on a book? First go to:

www.springhillorchidclub.com/alphabetical-listing-library-books.html

for an Alphabetical listing of our books. If you find one you want to know more about, take note of the order number, go to the bottom center of the page and click on the tab "Back to Library Page" then by moving your cursor over the pictures you'll find the order numbers with a brief description in large print.

If you click on the picture it will enlarge to show you the whole cover.

After you have made your selection, go to the bottom of the page and fill out the Book Order Form.

After it is filled out, click 'SUBMIT'. I will receive your request and bring your requested book to the next monthly Orchid Lovers' Club meeting, for you to pick up. Keep the book for a month and return it to me at the next meeting. (No charge to members) A sign out sheet will be available.

Thank you.



Tom Govin, Librarian

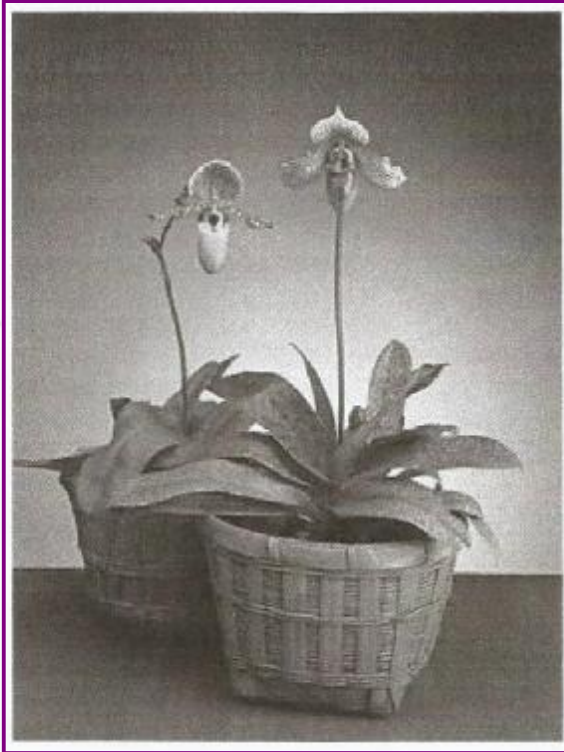
Answers to the Orchid Quiz on page 4.

The Answer: Nero Wolfe who is a fictional character, an armchair detective, created in 1934 by Rex Stout.

(From his writings) Entering from the stairs via a vestibule, there were three main rooms — one for [cattleyas](#), [laelias](#), and hybrids; one for [odontoglossums](#), [oncidiums](#), [miltonias](#), and their hybrids; and a tropical room (according to *Fer-de-Lance*). It must have been quite a sight with the angle-iron staging gleaming in its silver paint and on the concrete benches and shelves 10,000 pots of orchids in glorious, exultant bloom.

Novice Paphiopedilum Culture Sheet

paff-ee-oh-PED-ih-lum



American Orchid Society
at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156

Paphiopedilums are often called "slipper orchids" because of their unique pouch. They are easily grown as houseplants and their care is very similar to African Violets.

Water

How often you water will depend on whether your plant is potted in bark or a sphagnum moss mix and the amount of light and heat. Paphs need more frequent watering than some other orchids because they have no pseudobulbs to store water. Bark retains less water so will require more frequent watering - every five days is usually sufficient. If your plant is potted in moss, water when the top feels dry. Care should be taken not to overwater to avoid rotting the roots. Soon you will be able to tell by the weight of the pot whether or not it is time to water again. If in doubt, wait a day.

When you water an orchid you want to let the water run through the plant for a minute or so. Place the plant in the sink and use tepid water. Be sure to let the plant drain completely. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water.

This is a good time to look closely at your paph for any sign of insects and to remove any leaves that have browned.

Light

Paphs belong to the "low" light group of orchids. An east window is ideal; west or south windows can also be used if shaded with a sheer curtain. You can tell by the leaves if the plant is getting too much light. A reddish tinge on the edges means you need to provide more shade for your plant. If your paph does not re-bloom, it may not be getting enough light.

Temperature

Paphs generally enjoy the same temperatures that we do in the home; ideally, 60-65° F at night and 75-85° F during the day. Keep in mind that temperatures close to the window on a windowsill will be colder or hotter than your general house temperature. Paphs can be grown outside in mild climates. The plants can stand temperatures from 95°F to the 40s. Protect plants during cold temperatures by avoiding moisture on leaves or in the crowns and in summer from burning from the sun.

Fertilizer

Any balanced orchid fertilizer (look at the numbers on the container, 20-20-20, etc.) can be used to fertilize your orchid. Weakly (¼ strength), weekly works well. Once a month use clear water to flush any accumulated salts from the potting mix.

Tips

Use a shallow tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity around your plants. Be sure the pot does not sit in water as this will rot the roots.

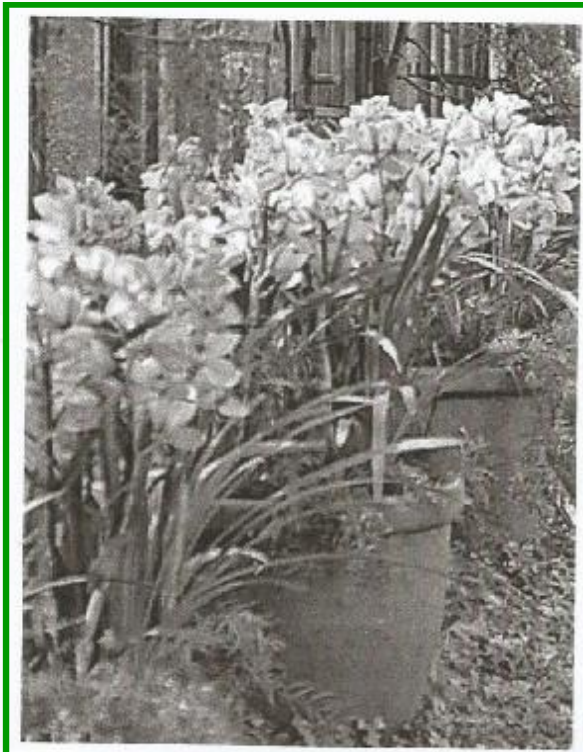
Give your plants room for air to circulate around them. Crowding of plants can lead to problems with insect infestations and fungus. A small fan will help provide good air circulation around your plants.

When the blooms are finished, cut the spike down to the level of the leaves. Continue watering and fertilizing and within a year a new growth will spike to begin the blooming cycle again!

When the plant has finished blooming is a good time to repot your orchid.

Novice Cymbidium Culture Sheet

sym-BID-ee-um



American Orchid Society
at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156

Cymbidiums are prized for their long-lasting sprays of flowers. There are two main types of cymbidiums - standards and miniatures. Where summer nights are warm (above 70° F), miniatures are recommended because many are more tolerant of heat and able to flower in warmer weather.

Water

Provide a constant supply of moisture to cymbidiums. They need the most water during the spring and summer keeping the potting material evenly moist. Reduce water in late summer. Keep barely moist during the winter.

When watering, let the water run through for a minute or longer to thoroughly wet the potting mix. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water. Be sure to let the plant drain completely.

This is a good time to look closely at your plant for any sign of insects or disease.

Light

From spring to autumn cymbidiums should be grown in the maximum amount of light (but not full sun). Feel the foliage to be sure that it is not warm since the leaves can sunburn.

Temperature

If practical, bring in the cymbidiums in when frost is likely and then put them back out as it warms up. In the spring, move the cymbidiums out of doors as soon as the night temperature is going to stay in the mid 40's or above and bring them back indoors in the fall when a light frost is predicted. It is very important for initiation of spikes to have a difference in temperatures between night and day. This can be achieved in the summer by sprinkling the leaves in the late afternoon or early evening for evaporative cooling.

Fertilizer

Any balanced orchid fertilizer (look at the numbers on the container, 20-20-20, etc.) can be used to fertilize your orchid. Feed cymbidiums every two weeks from March until September to help establish good growth and a good number of spikes in the fall. In late winter and the fall, feed once every three weeks and once a month in the mid winter.

Tips

Potting is usually done in the spring after flowering, usually every two years or when the potting medium decomposes.

Give your plants room for air to circulate around them. Crowding of plants can lead to problems with insect infestations and fungus. A small fan will help provide good air circulation around your plants when inside.

When the blooms are finished, remove the spikes at the base of the plant