



Volume 24 Issue 12
December 2016

CONTENTS

Page 2

Officers/Committees

Treasurer's Report

Refreshment

Reminder

Page 3

President's Message

Page 4

President's

Greenhouse

Monthly Orchid

Quiz

January Meeting

Page 5

Member Story

Page 6

Christmas
Orchids



Page 7

Christmas
Poem



Page 8-9

Yearly Auction

Page 10-11

Culture Sheet for
Paphiopedilums

Page 12-13

Culture Sheet for
Cymbidiums
Phalenopsis

THE KEIKI



Orchid Lovers' Christmas Party Saturday, December 10, 2016

At: Buffet City

13235 Cortez Blvd.

Brooksville, Florida

Whose Orchids are These Time: 12:00 pm right of

page 10 for the answer.

Price: \$7.01 plus tax each (Buffet)

Drinks \$1.59 for soda

Hot Tea \$0.50

Desert: Christmas Cookies provided by Club Members (Members are asked to bring a dozen cookies)



Gifts: 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.

If you haven't yet signed up for the Christmas Party or need more information, call Marita at 723-673-1179

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**Bulletin (The Keiki)**

Ken & Delia Dunn

Membership

Linda Meyer & Gloria Thomas

Publicity

Julie Smolka

Refreshments

Laurie Ciannamea & Pat Dupke

Show Chair

Marita Reisz

Show Table Report

Matt Riesz

Trips

Sonia Terrelonge & Laurie Ciannamea

Website

Set up by Ken Dunn

Webmaster Bob East

**Treasurer's Report**

By Helen Battistrada

Balance last month: 10/15/16 \$6143.78

Income: \$ 498.00

Disbursements: \$ 604.89

Current Balance: 11/19/16 \$6036.89

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

by

Laurie Ciannamea



This month we will
just eat what ever
we want at

The Christmas Party

At Buffet City





President's Message by Jeff Rundell

The days grow shorter and the sun is lower. It seems many living things, including some orchids, are ready for a rest. I admit, so am I. But I also hope you feel this has been a good year for our club especially in light of our recent auction. I'm going to leave you hanging on the amount we made until the Christmas party but let's just say that even Helen, our eternal treasurer, was grinning ear to ear. That calls for some deep praise for the people that donated plants, rehabbed and repotted, organized at the church, took in the proceeds and of course the patrons who bought almost 300 orchids. To all of you, my deepest gratitude.

Ok, that's enough rest. Are you ready? Now on to our show **The Festival of Orchids, March 18-19**. The venue (the VFW) is set along with 6 vendors, displays and other features so get involved. Have a heart to heart talk with your plants about opening all their blooms on March 16.

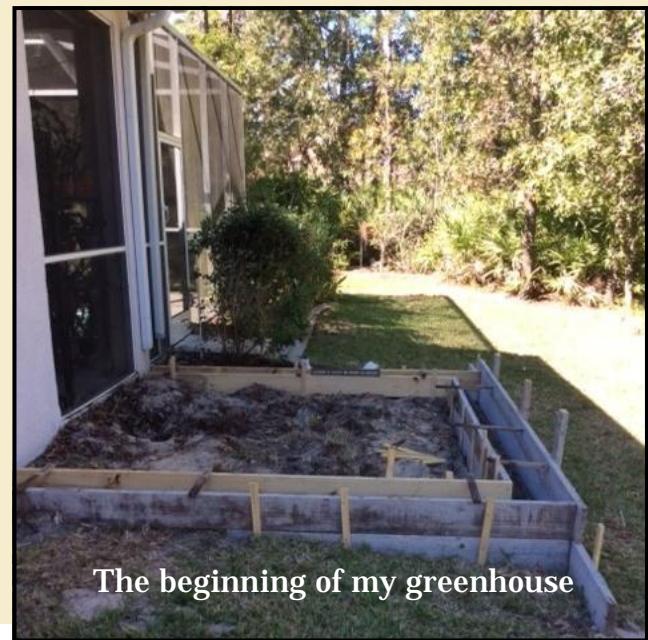
My secret greenhouse / sunroom is finished and now stuffed with plants. I admit it was not created by me but Accent Aluminum and has a smoky clear polycarbonate roof and sliding windows. So far it has been easy to cool and heat. Now let's see if I can keep anything alive inside. See the pictures and remember I take discouraging comments really well.

As a farewell to 2016 I'd like to take a moment of your time to comment on something that makes our group unique. We are all so different, yet the same in a unifying interest surrounding the most fascinating plants on the planet. Whether old or young, red haired or no haired, talkative or quiet, tall or short, energized or relaxed, fashionable or fastidious, we are together and part of a community in love with the natural world.

I know of individual members devoted to their vandas, catasetums, cattleyas, encyclias or other genera that I still can't spell. I know of one mem-

ber who's joy is mounting little phals on all sorts of things. Another member flasks plants in a chamber that looks like it came from a sci fi movie. Some have big greenhouses with plants that look like they came right out of Amazonia. There are members that can score every feature on a plant to make it a star. A few members can repeat the ancestry of a complex hybrid, who grew it and when, without a second thought. But then there are members who's karma is simply the aesthetic pleasure of watching a plant grow, bud, and bloom filling their senses with a lovely scent and feeling that is beyond words. Of course you don't need to be any of these things. All you need to do is have fun and reach the level that gives you the most pleasure. We have all the aforementioned people and more, so see them and join their little subcultures if you are interested. Better yet, find your own little niche because there is always something new to explore in the orchid world. In times like these of convulsing civilizations we all can find a little bit of peace in the natural beauty of an orchid.

I hope to see you at the Christmas party and have a wonderful holiday season. Jeff



The beginning of my greenhouse



Everybody happy in there?

Mission accomplished.

Monthly Orchid Quiz

Interior decorators love the "Moth Orchid," which happens to be the easiest to grow in normal household conditions. What is its scientific name?

Cymbidium

Vanda

Dendrobium

Phalaenopsis

Answer on Page 11



A dream come true.

Christmas party this month and then back to our regular meeting in January

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING,

JANUARY 14, 2017 -

Monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 8681 at 18940 Drayton Street in Shady Hills. The Post is on the corner of Drayton Street and County Line Road, on the Pasco side.

Death of A Native *by Tim Smith*



Judy and I have been members of the OLCSH since about 2001. With exception of a couple times, the club has always had the club picnic at Crews Lake. She a native of Virginia and I a native West Virginian, we are year around outdoors people. Hunting, fishing, hiking, or just exploring the great outdoors.

That being said, the first club picnic we went to we did a fair amount of exploring Crews Lake well off the sidewalk. You have to get down in the trenches to see things the ordinary person over looks while just walking the sidewalk or trail. On one of these excursions, Judy came across a nice patch of ground orchids that were in bloom and no one had disturbed yet. According to the Wild Orchids of Florida published in 2002, we think it is a *habenaria adontopetala Reichenbach f.*, however the name has been changed to *Habenaria floribunda*. (Thank you Laura Newton for researching that for us)

Some years they were in bloom and some years just budding so temperature may play a part of triggering the flowers to open. Last year they put on a nice show for us. We mostly kept this to ourselves because as Jeff will tell you, as soon as you point out wild orchids growing they will disappear by the time you visit them again. I am not saying I was worried about club members disturbing the orchids; I was concerned about too much activity in the woods might bring undue attention to them. I mentioned this patch of wild orchids in the newsletter a few years back, offering to share the location to club members but no takers.

Too bad because this year they were gone, taken over by an evasive vine kudzu, the orchids were apparently smothered out.

This bothered me to the extent I called the Parks and Recreation Department that oversees Crews Lake. Of course all I got was an answering machine but I left my name, phone number, and told the machine the whole story. I said the kudzu should be removed from that area as it was a sad

thing to see all those native orchids being killed. Judy and I offered to come down and show them the area where the orchids were growing if necessary. This was about a week after the picnic and I have not heard a word from the Parks and Recreation Department. I am afraid my complaint fell on deaf ears.

If you feel the same as Judy and I, please call Keith Wiley at 1-813-929-2760 and ask to speak to him or his assistant whose answering machine I finally talked to. One complaint may be just filed in the trash can but perhaps they will listen to many.



Habenaria floribunda

Update; On November 28th, Christy from the Pasco County DNR returned my call regarding the *Habenaria* orchids at Crews Lake. She seems genuinely interested and wanted specific information on the orchids location which I provided. Since she is handling the issue personally, if you call her number and extension is; 727-847-2411 ext.7377.



According to the Orchid Lady, there are two extraordinary orchid species of Cattleyas nick-

named Xmas Orchid. They get their nickname from the fact that they display their beautiful orchid blooms around Christmas time.

teya traianaei. It is one of the most cultivated Cattleya species in the orchid community and is now the national flower of Colombia. This species produces blossoms in many colors from a pure snowy, holiday

white to deep lavenders and anything in between.



It begins to bloom around December, but continues its show for the next four or five months, right into the Easter season. And it smells good too!

The first Cattleya "Christmas Orchid" is Cat-teya percivaliana. Although this is a relatively small plant, the flowers are quite large in relation to its size, with lavender to rose-colored blossoms. Each bloom is further decorated with a frilly lip and a touch of yellow in the throat. Though Cattleyas are known for their beautiful fragrance, this one has just the opposite—a rather putrid odor. So if you're considering giving orchids as gifts, maybe this one isn't the best choice. The other Cattleya "Christmas Orchid" is Cat-

Finally, the orchid known as the "Christmas Star" or "The Star of Bethlehem Orchid" is Angraecum sesquipedale. The star-shaped blossoms are a waxy white to greenish white. This orchid is only fragrant at night, keeping with its night-time star-like qualities. Though these orchids are named for Christmas, there are many more that are just as appropriate for gift giving and holiday decorations, like our own Phalaenopsis Orchids!



Special Christmas Poem

Author Unknown

I have a list of folks I know all written in a book.

And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.

And that is when I realize that these names are a part.

Not of the book in which that they're written, but of my heart.

Each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,

And in that meeting they've become the rhythm of the rhyme.

And while it sounds fantastic of me to make this claim.

I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,

Just meeting you has shaped my life more than you can think.

For once you've met somebody, those years they can't erase,

The memories of a pleasant word or a friendly face.

So never think that my Christmas greeting is just a mere routine,

Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between.

For when I send a Christmas greeting that is addressed to you,

Its because you're on that list of folks whom I am indebted to.

For I'm but a total of the many ones I've met,

And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.

And whether I've known you for many years or few,

In some way you had a part in shaping things I do.

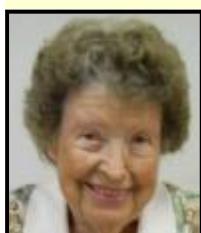
So every year when Christmas comes I realize anew,

The biggest gift that life can give is meeting someone like you.

And may the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures,

Leave its richest blessings in the heart of you and yours.

Let's Hear and See About The November Auction



**By Helen Battistrada
Treasurer**

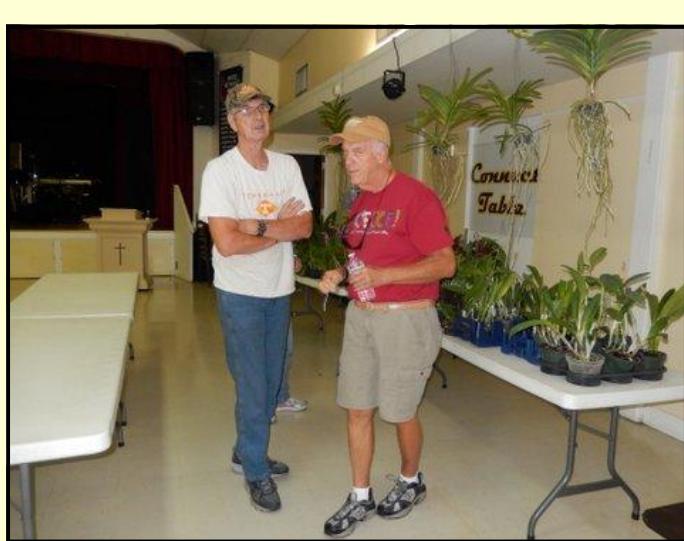
**What a great turnout—and -
Once again “Over the Top”**

I thought last year was the ultimate—but—this year we went over it again. Profit to the club, a super total of \$3,000.00. I'm running out of words and you know that is not like me.

I want to especially thank Arty and Arlene Appelbaum for working with me to “take it all in” Same time next year? !!!

And once again to thank all of the members who helped to make this such a success.







Paphiopedilum

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

Continued on next page

(Continued from prior page)

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 ($\frac{1}{4}$ 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.



Answer to: Monthly Orchid Quiz on Page 4

A Moth Orchid is correctly called Phalaenopsis but more commonly known as a Moth Orchid and is often frequently received as a gift. These beautiful and long lived plants are relatively easy to care for.



Phalaenopsis

fayl-eh-NOP-sis

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

If you are lucky enough to have a Phalaenopsis, you are about to enter the wonderful world of growing orchids! Phals are one of the easiest orchids to grow in the home. If you follow a few basic requirements, these plants will reward you with several months of beautiful blooms.

Water

How often you water will depend on the potting medium. Bark retains less water than moss. If your phal is potted in bark watering once a week is generally sufficient. If your plant is potted in moss, water when the top feels dry. The amount of light and heat your plant receives will also affect how soon your phal needs watering. Summer months will need more frequent watering, winter will need less. After a few watering, 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.

It is best to water in the morning. Place the plant in the sink and use tepid water. Do not use salt-softened or distilled water. Let the water run through the plant for a minute or so. Be sure to let the plant drain completely.

If any water remains in the crown (where the leaves join in the center) use a paper towel to blot the water to avoid crown rot.

Light

Phalaenopsis are 'low' light orchids. They grow beautifully in an east window and can be

(Continued on next page)

(Continues from prior page)

grown in a south or west window if protected by a sheer curtain. A phal's leaves should be olive green. If they are darker it means the plant is not getting enough light; red tinged leaves mean the plant is getting too much light. Once the plant is in bloom you can place it anywhere in your home out of direct sunlight. If your plant does not re-bloom, increase the amount of light that it receives.

Continue watering and fertilizing while waiting for the blooming cycle to begin!

Temperature

Phals are easy to grow because they enjoy the same temperatures we do – above 60° F at night and a range of 70° F to 80° F or higher during the day. 95° F is the maximum temperature recommendation. Keep in mind that temperatures close to the window on a windowsill will be colder or hotter than your general house temperature. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open.

Fertilizer

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

Humidity

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.

Cutting the spike

When the blooms are finished, you can cut the spike down to the level of the leaves and the plant will bloom with larger flowers and a strong stem within a year. You can also cut off the stem leaving two nodes (those little brown lines on the stem below where the flowers were) on the stem. One of these nodes will then initiate and generally produce flowers within eight to 12 weeks. See the video on the AOS website: Where to Cut a Phalaenopsis Spike ([/orchids-aos-video-library/where-to-cut-a-phalaenopsis-spike.aspx](http://orchids-aos-video-library/where-to-cut-a-phalaenopsis-spike.aspx))

Continue watering and fertilizing while you are waiting for the blooming cycle to begin again! Repotting is usually done every one to three years.