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March 2016

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Orchids That Look
Like something else



THE KEIKI



FESTIVAL OF ORCHIDS



Presented by The Orchid Lovers Club of
Spring Hill

Saturday March 19, 10am—4pm

Sunday March 20, 10am—3pm

At The VFW Post, Corner of 18940 Drayton and
County Line Road in Spring Hill

Orchid displays, 6 Vendors, Suppliers,

Potting Booth, Help and Advice

Free Parking—\$2.00 donation for entry

Hourly Orchid Raffle

Directions: County Line Road (Pasco 578) 2.7 miles west of
589 Parkway or 6.3 miles east from US 19 (18940 Drayton
Street)

Call 352-503-7858 or 727-856-0222 or visit

www.springhillorchidclub.com

No regular members' meeting this
month.





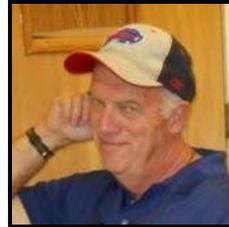
Treasurer's Report

By Helen Battistrada

2/20/2016 Balance	\$7,888.18
Receipts	\$1,127.00
Disbursements	<u>\$ 906.56</u>
11/21/2015 Balance	\$8,108.62



Some of the plants for sale by JOY ORCHIDS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

It's hard for me to think about almost anything else except the fact that we are just a few days away from our Orchid Festival. Together we are hoping that all the planning and effort of so many will bear the fruit (actually blossoms) of success.

Our advertising has been designed and placed in the Times, Tribune, Chronicle and several smaller papers. Garden clubs and communities have distributed our posters and numerous other outlets have been contacted. So now the fun begins. Setting up our displays, welcoming our vendors and guests along with watching people take it all in gives me an intense sense of pride. For me, the guilty pleasure is drawing the hourly raffle winners and seeing the smile on their faces when they get their orchid prize. If you can think of any stone we have not turned over, please make it your mission to complete the task.

Not that any of us need to be reminded, but be sure to bring your groomed plants on Friday as soon as possible. Make sure to fill out the duplicate labels and bring any of those non living things that might help the display (driftwood, cork, ferns, moss, lichens, plant stands and the like.)

Pat will be accepting the food donations and I will be eating them. It is also very important that, if you have volunteered for a specific job, you are there on time.

Please don't take a position someone else has already volunteered for unless they ask. We still have some spaces for helpers including the Club Table Saturday 2-4, setting up the Educational Display Friday and helpers at the Potting Shed on Sunday. I hope all of us visit the Vendors we have enlisted since they will surely have a really unique variety of plants that you might not be able to resist.

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The weather has warmed and my orchids are cautiously migrating outdoors. I have even taken the monumental step of contacting some construction people about building a small greenhouse if I can get community approval. I also want to mention that I have gotten some responses to my invitation about group bulk purchasing of supplies. If you are in need of potting materials, containers, chemicals or anything else orchid related, send me an email describing your needs and we will get started after the show.

I know we will have a great turnout and a great time so let's all of us make it happen!



Judging the Show Table



Great attendance at the meeting

Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill

Minutes

February 20, 2016



Jeff Rundell called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and noted that this is a very important meeting, since our annual SHOW is coming up next month. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed.

Helen Battistrada provided our financial report.

Starting Balance \$7,888.18

Receipts: \$1,127.00

Disbursements: \$906.56

Ending Balance: \$8,108.62

Minutes for October and January were approved.

We joined the AOS for two years, and they gave us a discount certificate of \$30 on any order of \$100 or more from select growers. If anyone wants to get in on this and put together an order please contact Jeff.

If you're interested in buying orchid supplies in bulk – potting media, chemicals, etc., please contact Jeff via email at jrundell@tampabay.rr.com and we'll see what we can put together after the show. Hicks Orchid Supplies will be at our show next month and you can buy many things from them, in much smaller quantities. Ellie Wilcox has donated several plants to the club, from her husband Bill who recently passed away. Bill was a treasured member, who always had a smile on his face. We will miss him. We'll rehab these special plants a bit and they will be for sale to club members at our April meeting.

Our speaker in April will be Wally Wilder, who will talk to us about Florida Native Orchids. He will not be bringing orchids for sale, so members may bring in orchids to sell and trade.

Our Annual Show is coming up; and we need lots of volunteers. Several people are always involved but we need more of you. This is

a fun way to meet people, learn more about orchids and just have a good time. Jeff asked for people to fill in the blank spaces on his show schedule. None of the jobs is complicated or takes special knowledge, so come on down and help out.

We also need natural materials to help round out our display, as mentioned in last month's Keiki. Please help with whatever you can – bark, cork, moss, ferns and other greenery are much appreciated. Make sure it's pest-free, please! Other items like decorations, etc. are also appreciated. If you have something that you think might help, please contact Linda Hindman.

And ... WE NEED PLANTS!!! Some of the people who have previously provided many of our plants, like Gary Gethen, will be unable to bring so many this year. Any plant will do, if it's in bloom. Don't be embarrassed if it's not perfect – it's still beautiful and we can work around its ugly bits and display it beautifully! Please bring your plants either Thursday evening from 5 to 7PM, or Friday no later than noon – the earlier the better! We must have time to stage them properly and catalog them. Make sure you have a list of your plants, and that your name is on each plant. There will be a document available on our website where you should put your plant information. Please bring this document with you when you bring your plants.

Attendance at our show was down a little bit last year, so the board has decided to make a major investment in advertising of \$1,500 to try and bring that up. We will use that to get the show into whatever major media we can. If anyone has homeowners' association newsletters or other places they could put in a mention, please don't fail to do that. Garden clubs would be a great place too, if you know someone in one of those clubs. We have posters available, which you can download from our website. We have six good vendors coming, with a nice assortment of plants, so there should be lots to choose from.

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Pat Dupke mentioned that we'll need whatever food that people are bringing by 10:30 on Friday and Saturday. The food is for vendors and members who are working at the show only, and we do not sell it.

Several good ideas were raised about improving the show attendance, e.g. discount coupons. After the show we'll have an opportunity to critique it and see what we could do better next year, so keep those ideas coming! Write down anything you think of and/or put it on our facebook page so we can collect them all up.

The group adjourned for refreshments, after which Matt Riesz and Jeff Rundell discussed the show table plants.

Joyce Fowler was introduced as our speaker, who talked about how to prepare plants for the show so that they look their best. She brought plants for sale too.

The meeting was adjourned before 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Riesz

~~~~~

Speaker, Joyce Fowler



**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 Diesz**

**COMMITTEES**

**Membership**

**Linda Meyer & Gloria Thomas**

**Publicity**

**Julie Smolka**

**Website**

**Bob East**

**Bulletin**

**Ken & Delia Dunn**

**Refreshments**

**Laurie Cinnamon & Pat Dupke**

**Trips**

**Donna Fazekas & Sonia Terrelonge**



SHOW TABLE PLANTS





## February 20 Show Table Report

By Matt Riesz



| <u>OWNER</u>                            | <u>PLANT NAME</u>                                       | <u>YRS OWNED</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>!! <u>BLUE RIBBON WINNERS</u> !!</b> |                                                         |                  |
| Connie Chase                            | Phal. Taisuco Denise (Brother Mirage x Asian Elegance)  | 6                |
| Caitlin DiCristofalo                    | Paph. Hsinying Majakun                                  | 2                |
| Gary Gethen (24 yrs)                    | Den. aggregatum 10 Den. Spring Bird 'Kurashiki'         | 3                |
| Dan Grant (10+ yrs)                     | C. percivaliana                                         | 3                |
| Jeff Rundell                            | Onc. sphacelatum                                        | 4                |
| Matt Riesz (16 yrs)                     | Epicattleya Siam Jade 'Avo'                             | 4                |
| <b><u>HONORABLE MENTION</u></b>         |                                                         |                  |
| B. Lewis (33 yrs)                       | Psychopsis Kalihi Green Valley x alba                   | 1                |
|                                         | Phal. violacea                                          | 2                |
| Connie Chase                            | Phal. Hybrid                                            |                  |
|                                         | Phal. Hybrid                                            |                  |
|                                         | Phal. Fusheng Diamond Island 'E1' x Fusheng Purple Rose | 2                |
| Dan Grant (10+ yrs)                     | Phal. Hybrid Sedirea japonica                           |                  |
| Delia Dunn (21 yrs)                     | Den. Super Ise                                          | 2                |
|                                         | Den. Himezakura 'Sanokku'                               | 6                |
|                                         | Rhyncostylis gigantea alba                              | 7                |
| Gary Gethen (24 yrs)                    | Den. Yellow Song 'Canary' AM/AOS                        | 3                |
| Julie Smolka                            | Pot. Dick Smith 'Paradise'                              | 2                |
|                                         | Den. bifalce                                            | 2                |
| Linda Hindman                           | Phal. Hybrid                                            | 1                |
| Matt Riesz (16 yrs)                     | Coelogyne mossiae                                       | 10               |
|                                         | Rhyncolaelia glauca                                     | 5                |
|                                         | Beallara Lunatic Fringe 'Yikes'                         | 7                |
|                                         | Odontocidium Tiger Crow 'Golden Girl' CCM/AOS           | 10               |
| Pat Dupke                               | Phal. Carolina Bronze Meteor                            | 3                |
| Tom Govin (12 yrs)                      | Lc. Little Oliver                                       | 5                |

**WELL DONE - WELL GROWN!!!!**



Show table plants





## Speaker Segment

by Kara Warnock

Our speaker this month was Joyce Fowler of Joy Orchids, who spoke about getting our orchid plants ready for the upcoming show. It is always a pleasure to hear Joyce speak. Just something about the way she explains things to folks; she always has a way of making everything so simple to understand. Grooming our plants for the show is essential to present the plants at their best. We want for the plants and more importantly the flowers to reach out and grab people's attention.

At our show we want the flowers to be the focal point of our plant presentation. Therefore, flower spikes should be staked, preferably as they are first emerging, in order to present the blooms in the best alignment. Floral stakes are available in a number of different materials from many home improvement stores. It is best to choose stakes that are of a more neutral color that will blend in with the plant (such as natural or green colored bamboo), as bright colors would detract from the focus being on the orchid flowers. Joyce recommends positioning stakes so that the top of the stake ends approximately 2 inches or so lower than the position of the first of the orchid flowers. Tie wires should be used at intervals (tying low and high, at least two ties per stake) to attach the orchid spike securely to the stake. Decorative clips (such as butterfly or dragonfly clips) are a personal choice and can be used in addition to tie wires to help secure the orchid spike to the stake. When grooming floral spikes for display it is important to remove old, spent (non-fresh) bloom spikes and blooms that are past their prime.

Although the orchid flowers are the primary focus of our preparations, they are not the only part of the plant that needs attention prior to the show; the foliage and plant as a whole will need tending to. The media that the plant is growing in should be checked for weeds, and any found should be promptly removed. Any roots that have "gone crazy" growing well beyond the reaches of the pot should be trimmed back. Small, discolored brown

spots on leaves can be removed by cutting out affected areas with scissors. The leaves should be cut at an angle back to the healthy plant tissue in front of the discoloration. This will provide a more natural look to the foliage of the leaf. One should not worry so much about removing all blemished leaves since these imperfections can be disguised by using ferns in the displays at the show. As an example, Joyce mentioned not to remove too many leaves from plants during grooming such as removing multiple older plant leaves simply because they are turning yellow. Removal of several older, yellowing leaves like that is not necessary and would lead to an awkward presentation of the plant. Instead leave healthy leaves on plants even if they are older and discoloring slightly, these areas will be filled in to appear greener using ferns.

Grime or buildup of material on the leaves should be cleaned off using a product such as Leaf Shine, which can be purchased at Michaels craft stores or any number of retailers online. It is worth noting that even household products including white vinegar and milk will help remove grime from the leaves and provide a slight sheen in the event that Leaf Shine cannot be found.

Lastly the entire plant should be inspected for signs of pests. Some of the more common pests to encounter include mealybugs, scale and thrips. Mealybugs are unarmored scale insects with a cotton like appearance that like to hide on the underside of leaves and flowers. Scale insects appear as hard-shelled brown or white immobile bumps that are attached to leaves, stems, pseudobulbs or even flowers. Thrips are tiny yellowish-brown to black colored winged insects that cause a brownish discoloration to leaves and flowers. Thrips like to hang out where the petals and sepals of flowers overlap, and they are easiest to spot on light colored flowers. Thoroughly inspect leaves, flowers, and underneath sheaths of pseudobulbs for pests before bringing plants in to display at the show. Even growing media should be checked for hitchhikers such as ants.

There are numerous products that can be used to treat for pests. However, it is important to read the  
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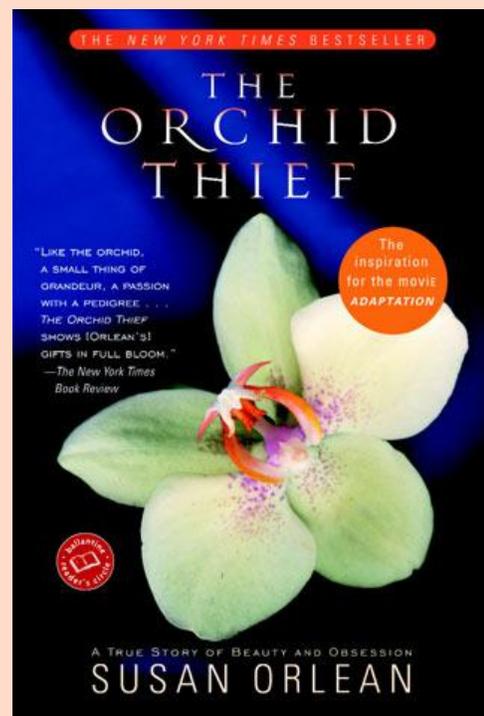
labels on products and make sure that it says safe for use on orchids. For small infestations of mealybugs and scale you can use rubbing alcohol on a cotton ball or Q-tip to remove the offending pests. For larger infestations, the entire plant including the flowers must be sprayed as thoroughly as possible with an insecticide. For thrips manual removal is usually not an option, eradication is best accomplished by a light misting of the plant, especially the flowers, with an insecticide. A product that Joyce uses regularly to treat for mealybugs, scale and thrips is Pure Oil (Neem Oil) at a concentration of 2 oz/gal. This is an effective and natural way to spray for pests. Care does need to be taken with this product as you do not want to spray it on your plants during periods where the temperature will be at or above 90 degrees.

Other insecticides can be used to treat these pests, including Malathion. However, Malathion has a strong residual odor and if used should be sprayed on plants well in advance of the show so that the smell has had a chance to dissipate. For ants residing in the growing media a number of treatment options are available including: submerging the pot in water, sprinkling cinnamon on top of the bark 1-2 times a week for a month, using a Sevin dust and water drench, and acephate are all options. Worth mentioning, acephate also stinks to high heaven and if planning to use should be done several weeks in advance of the show. A little unorthodox I am sure, Joyce also mentioned that she regularly will use Ortho Home Defense insect spray not only around the greenhouse but on plants as well to control pests.

***Like Jeff has mentioned before we need all available blooming plants for our show in a few weeks. Even if you think that your plant may not be worthy of display and only has one flower consider bringing it in. As long as the plant is healthy and pest free it will not matter so much, and Linda Hindman and her team can work their magic to make that one flower shine. Use these tips outlined by Joyce to get your plants prepared and looking their best for display at our show.***

(A Book Report)  
***The Orchid Thief***

In 1994, I headed down to Florida to investigate the story of John Laroche, an eccentric plant dealer who had been arrested along with a crew of Seminoles for poaching rare orchids out of the a South Florida swamp. I never imagined that I would end up spending the next two years shadowing Laroche and exploring the odd, passionate world of orchid fanatics. I certainly never imagined that I would willingly hike through the swamps of South Florida -- but that's what writing a book does to you. I found myself as passionate about the project as the orchid fanatics were about their flowers, and that is ultimately what the book is about. I'm proud to report that the book was a New York Times bestseller, a Barnes and Noble Discover book, a Borders New Voices selection, an honoree in the American Library Association and New York Public Library books-of-the-year selections, and the subject of the movie,



## Orchid Tractor by Tim Smith



Judy has certain orchids that stay outdoors year round weather permitting. She had them hanging in an arbor then when cold weather comes, takes them to her winter greenhouse. It was always a hassle moving them in and out as they are many and carrying them two

Everything except the handle and part of the steering mechanism is galvanized so rusting is not much of a factor with the corrosiveness of the fertilizer and water Judy uses. The tractor dimensions were consistent with the door to her greenhouse so she could just open the door and pull the tractor in when needed. Same thing when bringing them out. Also, me being her personal grunt, my work has declined a little.



or three at a time was a bummer.

A few months back when we were caretakers for the Barbara Dodson Estate plants, I had written an article about making greenhouse tables out of my neighbor's surplus material pile that he was getting ready to take to the junk yard. While rummaging through all of that junk, another thought came to my mind and I started gathering things for another project that I had been thinking of. Judy calls it her "Orchid Tractor".

While carrying all those orchids in and out, I knew there had to be a better way and so I built this orchid transporter from all surplus material at a cost of \$4. for sheet metal screws.

Here are the various components:

The front and rear axles are from the hinges of a roll-up garage door.

The supporting members are 1/2" metal electrical conduit.

The whole assembly was wrapped in discarded field fence wire to hang the orchids on.

Wheels and axle bolts are from two sidewalk edgers that had blown engines.

The steering handle is aluminum and from an old boat Bimini Top frame.



## ORCHIDS THAT LOOK LIKE SOMETHING ELSE

We will feature one every month



These gorgeous pair of red, luscious lips belong to a plant known as **Psychotria elata**, a tropical tree found in the rain forests of Central and South American countries like Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador. Affectionately, Psychotria elata is called Hooker’s Lips or the Hot Lips Plants. The plant has apparently evolved into its current shape to attract pollinators including hummingbirds and butterflies. The bracts are only kissable for a short while, before they spread open

to reveal the plant’s flowers. The flowers that are represented in this image are not true flowers but instead are colorful, waxy bracts. A bract is a modified or specialized leaf, usually associated with a reproductive structure, in this case the flower.

The vibrant, bright red inflorescences appear from December to March and are used to attract insect pollinators such as butterflies, but more specifically hummingbirds. The fruits are oval berries which turn dark blue or almost black once mature.



The true flowers are far smaller, white, star-shaped blooms which emerge from the center of the bracts. Sadly, Hooker's lips plants are under threat in their native habitat due to deforestation and an increase in popularity with plant collectors.

Seed of the Hooker's lips plant do seem to be available, but you will need to replicate its natural environment for the seeds to germinate and then flourish. For successful germination provide warm, moist, humid conditions, after which your juvenile plants will need a sheltered position and some dappled shade to protect them from bright sunlight.

\*

