



Volume 25 Issue 12
December 2017

CONTENTS

Page 2

Officers/Committees
Refreshments
Treasurer's Report

Page 3

President's Message

Page 4 - 5

Member Story

Page 6

Membership Report

Page 7-8

Auction Pictures

Page 9

Future Speakers
When Should I Repot?

Page 10

Can I Grow Orchids
in the House?

Where Do I Cut
Flower Spikes?

Page 11

Library



THE KEIKI



**Buffet City 12:00 Noon
13235 Cortez Blvd.**

Christmas party at Buffet City on Dec. 9. What you may not know is that: Linda Condon is collecting a list but, if you decide to come at the last minute that's fine since everyone pays their own way

We will have a free member raffle of blooming plants including some beautiful slipper Paph spicerianums. Please bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program. You may want to bring some Christmas cookies to share. We always look forward to these for desert.



**Club Orchid Auction on November 18,
a great success**

Our January meeting will feature a fresh face all the way from Texas . Peter Lin of Big Leaf orchids will speak about the world of Phalaenopsis orchids. He has a great variety of species phalaenopsis on his website so consider ordering something from him to bring along to the meeting.

<http://www.bigleaforchids.com/>

**1:00 pm—Meeting at regular location, VFW Hall
18940 Drayton & County Line Rd. in Spring Hill**

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President & Past President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Treasurer</u>	Helen Battistrada
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Pat Baig
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Matt Riesz
(not an elected position)	

COMMITTEES

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Ken & Delia Dunn
<u>Mailing the Keiki</u>	Tim Smith
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Linda Condon & Arlene Appelbaum
<u>Programs</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Publicity</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>Refreshments</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Trips</u>	Sonia Terrelonge & Laurie Ciannamea
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East

(Website set up by Ken Dunn)

!!! GREAT JOB, MARITA !!!

for planning a great Auction!

**And Thank You, Ed Bugbee, for the great job
you did as Auctioneer!**



REFRESHMENT REMINDER

By Mary Lou Mattana

**You will have a great selection
of food at Buffet City, just bring
some cookies for desert.**



Treasurer's Report

By Helen Battistrada

Beginning Balance :	\$8,139.61
Total Receipts	\$ 219.00
Disbursements:	<u>\$1,032.56</u>
Ending Balance:	\$7,326.05

Despite a rather low turnout we had a very successful Auction with a net to the club of \$2,620.00

My usual thanks to all who made this possible once again—and a very special thanks to the ever reliable and helpful Arty and Arlene.

Helen Battistrada



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

I just finished getting Christmas out of the attic. It seems to me that those boxes of lights and ornaments reproduce in that dark warm space. Every year there are more boxes than I stored last year. Why can't orchids reproduce like that? The only negative just appeared on TV. You guessed it. The weather guy just used a word I hate - frost! There certainly is a mystery that surrounds orchids and that is a big part of their appeal to me. This time of year leaves me wondering what lies in the future in the orchid world and for our club. I can assure you there are always surprises and I hope you look forward a continuing magical mystery tour of nature's most amazing plants.



By now you know about our Christmas party at Buffet City on Dec. 9.

Linda Condon is collecting a list but, if you decide to come at the last minute that's fine since everyone pays their own way. So come! What you may not know is that:

- a.) We will have a free member raffle of blooming plants including some beautiful slipper Paph. spicerianums.
- b.) Please bring an unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program.
- c.) We also look forward to the Christmas cookies everyone brings to share.

As you'll see with Helen's report we made a substantial amount of money from our Auction. The

Auction took a lot of effort spearheaded by Marita with the help of many others. If you did not attend I can tell you that you missed a wonderful opportunity to add to your collection because we had a remarkable variety of plants at great prices. I sincerely hope we can increase attendance next year. Professional growers and members came through with some extremely generous donations so they certainly deserve our thanks and support.

Our January meeting will feature a fresh face all the way from Texas. Peter Lin of Bigleaf orchids will speak about the world of Phalaenopsis orchids. He has a great variety of Phal species on his website so consider ordering something from him to bring along to the meeting.

Finally, in my view, this is a time for us all to be grateful, welcoming and renewed. I am incredibly grateful to all of you who have supported the club in the past year. I would run out of fingers quickly if I had to name all the members who have given unselfishly of their time and effort to make our club successful.

You are all truly Orchid Lovers.

Jeff





VOUS FAITES QUOI ??

(You're doing WHAT?)

by *Delia Dunn*

Those of you who grow outside will have noticed as I have that when the daily torrential rains come the plants put out their fastest growth and there isn't one plant that doesn't seem to thrive in that heavy rain that saturates their roots. Their pseudobulbs get fat and smooth, green roots are showing more and more and the leaves look healthy. Some of this may be due to the Nutricote beads in the pots, which are activated by the heavy rains, probably more so than with a light rain. In my first Keiki story I mentioned I was growing without a greenhouse and on my patio and the daily summer rains in Inverness prohibited my fertilizing as frequently as I should be.

I had remembered how my two pink adopted Cattleyas had grown enormous flowers after a long overnight soaking. and many years after my scale problem had gone I felt that all my orchids would do better if I soaked them in fertilizer water instead of spraying them, as many of my plants had not bloomed, or were just not strong or consistent bloomers.

And none of my Ascocendas, mounts or other bare roots bloomed after only spraying them. But when leaving them overnight in



fertilizer water they showed new signs of life, put out new roots and I'll be darned - they bloomed!!

Do not take this as advice for your plants; it is

only describing what I do for mine in my situation. We are all told not to soak our plants in the same water in case bacteria or fungus or a virus might spread to other plants. I do what I have to do to get my plants blooming. I did not have any problems with viruses and so on and if I had I would not have put them in the same water. So I started to soak all my plants in a large black plastic tray about 6" deep (would probably hold six 5" pots in two rows to give you an idea of size, although I do only one pot at a time), just a short soak (ie) pouring a small pitcher of fertilizer water slowly over the POT (not over the leaves) a few times until the roots are saturated.

I do also use a pump sprayer but only when Ken is around to open it for me. I cannot twist it open myself, afraid I'll break my wrist (*again, do not think you'll break YOUR wrist - it's only mine I'm talking about :)*) and besides that, it's heavy to pick up and just inconvenient for me to use. But I don't think the pump does an adequate job for me with fertilizing the roots as I stop spraying the plants when I see it pouring out of the bottom of the pots and wasting it,** even though I do it when the plants are mildly damp to begin with so the fertilizer will not run over completely dry roots. Others have great results fertilizing with a pump sprayer but they are doing it much more often than I am.

Also I make sure that one plant doesn't drip onto another plant after regular watering. I know that is another source of spreading bacteria, viruses and such. **The temptation to do that is always there when I see fertilizer being wasted dripping through the pots onto the concrete but on the patio I don't have my plants stacked one on top of another; they all sit by themselves on a shelf or cart with no plant underneath them.

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Because of the long wet summers we get in Inverness (maybe other places too?) I've mentioned how hard it is to fertilize regularly so by the time October and November roll around my plants have not been fertilized adequately so I make sure to soak them well sometime in the Fall after they have been completely dried out. A good soaking seems to make up for what they'd missed and makes them stronger through the winter too. I would not have to fertilize again for quite a while as the weather is dry at that time of year so it doesn't get washed out right away. At some point we had a speaker who told us that fertilizer was quickly absorbed by the roots and they get the nourishment they need right away and if it rains later it doesn't matter. That information makes me think a bit differently about when to fertilize, like it's OK to do it in the morning even if you know it'll rain in the afternoon.

Dipping or soaking the pots is time consuming and involves carrying pots back and forth so it takes a couple of days to do a good job with 180 or so plants but I have enormous success with this as I found I got stronger flowers or more flowers than when I only used the pump. I probably fill up the tray twice and add fresh fertilizer and keep adding water with the hose as the level goes down. I let every pot drain well before moving them back to their cart or shelf. Some of my plants are really large and very heavy so I'd carry the last of the fertilizer water and dump it on one of those plants. Actually the very large specimen sized plants with masses of roots like an Angraecum, are easier to



spray with the pump as they can take a lot more spraying than the small pots and I think there is less waste. I keep the clippers and scissors handy and while the pots soak I might clean up the leaves, talk to some of them that need it and clip off finished stems.



These are just a few of my fertilizer soaked plants from early on that put on a burst of growth.





Membership Notes

By Linda Condon

Were you at the Annual Orchid Auction in November? I hope so, because I hear it was a great event, with numerous beautiful orchids won by our club members as well as guests from "the public." It is our primary fund raiser of the year, and it sounds as if it succeeded in that goal, with thanks to Marita Reitz who chaired the event, and lots of other people who helped. I'm sure Marita will give us a more detailed rundown of the day elsewhere in The Keiki-if not, just ask her! And be sure to thank all involved-you, too!!

It is with sadness that I must inform you of the death of one of our members. Joan Barbarulo of New Port Richey passed away September 1, 2017. Joan had joined our club in June of 2016. Condolences were sent on behalf of the entire membership to her son Richard. He noted that "My mother enjoyed attending the orchid club meetings. She talked about them often. She loved her orchids. I think she always had at least six blooming. It was her favorite hobby." We will miss Joan's presence among us.

This year seems to have flown by at a faster speed than usual-the Holiday Party will be our last opportunity to meet together in 2017! We will be at Buffet City Restaurant, 13235 Cortez Blvd (RT50), Brooksville, FL 34613 at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, December 9th. Each person buys his or her own meal from the vast buffet options. We ask members to bring an unwrapped gift for any age child and two dozen holiday cookies to share for dessert. Guests are most welcome. We had asked for responses by November 30th, just so we can give the

restaurant an approximately accurate count for table set up, but please do come if you can. I'd appreciate your letting me know if you think you'll be able to join the festive throng! We have really had a good time at our Holiday Parties, and truly, it is as we always hear, "the more, the merrier!"

January begins the new year for our annual club dues. Membership is still the bargain of the century, at \$17 per individual, and \$25 for two people at the same address. We request you bring a check, which makes record keeping so much more clear and gives us a paper trail. I know, I hardly use checks anymore myself, but the club is not prepared to go to the expense of obtaining credit card payments, so I keep a few of my scraggly old checks just for payments like this. If you absolutely must use cash, please bring exact change! So we will see you in the Membership line at January's meeting, back at the VFW on County Line Rd on Saturday, January 20, 2018, at 1:00pm.

Meanwhile~ **Happy Holidays to us all!!**

Linda Condon

mmimilinda@gmail.com

727-808-3008



November 18 Orchid Auction Pictures



Our Great Auctioneer, Ed Bugbee



Will anyone bid \$100 for this mounted specimen?



Looking for the right orchid to bid on



A few of the 150 or so plants ready for auction



Helen, Arlene & Arty looking after the money



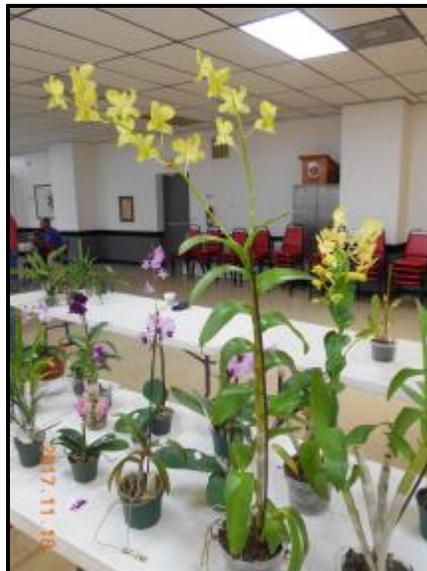
Laurie, Pat and Marita keeping up with the sales



Marita, Auction Chairperson



Bid, get a bite and bid again!



Largest Plant Sold



Plants that have been bid on, won, and ready for a trip to their new home.



**Steve Mattana, 2nd VP
Program Chairman**

Good day everyone.

The holiday season is upon us right now! We have had a wonderful year with some exciting and informative speakers for this past year.

In 2018 we start off with a bang! In January we will have Peter Lin from Big Leaf orchids in Texas coming to visit us and tell us all he knows about Phaleanopsis plants. Peter has written articles for the International Phaleanopsis Alliance, the American orchid Society, and has been a speaker all over the world. On his website you will see some of the plants that he will be bringing. He is also offering a 10% discount on pre-orders. So please take a look at Peter's website. www.bigleaforchids.com If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

This coming February, we will have Peter T live out of California talking to us about mini Catteleyas. He will also be offering a 10% discount on pre-orders. His website is www.diamondorchids.com

This coming March we will have Bill Nunez as our speaker and he will be talking about Encyclia's.

This April will be our annual show and more to come throughout the year. To get in contact with me my telephone number is 218-556-1895. Please give me a call I'll be more than happy to help you . See you all at the Christmas dinner next Saturday !!

When Should I Repot?

When an orchid plant starts to grow over the edge of the pot, it is time to repot it!



Orchid plants need repotting for one or a combination of two main factors: Potting mix breaks down, often evidenced by dead roots, or the plant outgrowing the container. In the first case, a larger pot may not be required, simply replace the growing medium. In the second case, the plant may need dividing or may be shifted into a larger pot. Fresh media should always be used. A good general rule of thumb is to pot for the bottom of the plant, the root system, and not for the top, the foliage.

FOR SALE

Kerry Richards from Orlando (closed World of Orchids) has a sterile cabinet for sale for anyone who wants to propagate orchids.

The cabinet is about 5 years old & probably needs new filters. Ideal for those who want to learn propagation or teaching sterile culture.

Price is \$500.00, if interested, contact Mr. Kerry kricha7010@aol.com



Can I grow my orchid in the house?

If so, Where?

An east or south facing window provides bright enough light for growing orchids.

South and east-facing windows work best for orchids. West windows can be too hot in the afternoon and north facing ones are usually too dark. A sheer curtain will cast light shade. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn - so it may be necessary to re-position plants as the seasons change. Move plants away from or toward the window to manipulate the amount of light. Make sure the leaves are not touching the glass. In winter in a cold climate, leaves touching the windowpane may freeze.

Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom.

~~~~~  
**Where do I cut the flower spike on a Phalaenopsis when it is finished?**

(picture of a node)



Phalaenopsis will often produce a secondary flush of flowers from a node on the inflorescence. Of all of the more commonly available orchids, only Phalaenopsis (the moth orchid) will re-bloom from its old spike. Phalaenopsis will generally re-bloom given a little extra care. When the last flower fades, you can leave the spike (stem) on and it will still continue flowering but the stem gets very ungainly and the flowers get smaller. Some people believe it is best to cut off the stem entirely at the base where it comes out of the leaves, and it will bloom again in several months.

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.

Younger or weaker plants may not re-bloom and some Phalaenopsis are genetically incapable of re-blooming from the old spike. These are usually those that flower with branched spikes. It's always worth a try. Orchids, like animals, are susceptible to viruses, so whenever cutting an orchid plant always use a sterile tool to prevent the spread of virus. A straight edged razor blade is a good tool to use for cutting flower spikes.





**CHECK IT OUT!**

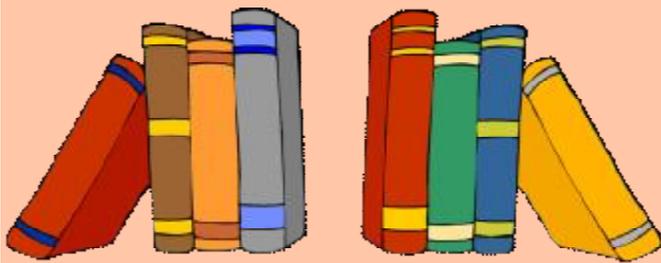
**OUR LIBRARY!!!!**

Keep your selection for a month! Click on:

[www.springhillorchidclub.com](http://www.springhillorchidclub.com)

And then click on:

[Alphabetical Listing Library Books](#)



**I hope to see you at our  
Christmas Luncheon!**

Take care,

*Celeste Ogden,  
Librarian*

