



Volume 25 Issue 1
January 2017

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THE KEIKI



THIS MONTHLY MEETING,

SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2017 - 1:00 pm

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.

Guests are always welcome!

Speaker will be, Member, Matt Riesz.

Matt is a home orchid grower who grows around 170 different orchids in and around his home in Spring Hill. He's been growing orchids for 16 years and recently moved from New Jersey where he was vice president of the Deep Cut Orchid Society. His talk is entitled "What Do I Do With My Orchid Now?". He'll talk about the most popular different types of orchids, how to identify yours, and the conditions they prefer.

That will include the details of what's in an orchid name, and why you should care. Basic orchid care for those who grow in their homes will be covered, including water, light, fertilizer and when and how to repot your orchid.



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

Library

Tom Govan

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: 11/19/16 \$6,036.89

Income: \$3,700.00

Disbursements: \$ 207.16

Current Balance: 12/10/16 \$9,529.23

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

by

Laurie Ciannamea



Refreshments

Delia Dunn

Pat Yacco

Connie Chase

Carol Vanderlaan

Soda or Juice:

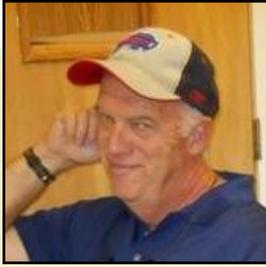
Marie Tanaka

Pat Baig

Laurie Ciannamea

Extra beverages are welcome!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jeff Rundell

It's 2017, or will be shortly if you prefer the Chinese calendar. The Year of the Rooster is upon us! Perhaps we should have a particular orchid denote each year? For me there's always a sense of relief that I made it through another year along with the trepidation of what might happen in the coming 365.

Let's start with what I know. Our speakers will include people like Glenn, Peter, Luis, Michael and Matt. We are working on more surprises courtesy of our new VP Steve. Likewise, someone named Marita has been hard at work organizing our show in March. I hope you are looking forward to our New Year as much as I am and maybe, if you are really smart, you can come up with the last names of people I listed above.

I'd like to tell you about some of my arcuate, bractose, gynandrous, rugose, lingulate, sympetalous orchids. Have you guessed what I got for Christmas from that last nonsense sentence? That's right, Santa brought me a brand new copy of A Botanist's Vocabulary- 1300 botanical terms explained and illustrated. Who could ask for more? Now, when you run across one of those confusing botanical terms, we'll be able to reduce it to a simple explanation everyone can understand.

So in with the new and out with the old. Speaking of old, boy have I got a deal for someone. I no longer want my winter greenhouse cluttering up my lanai now that my new greenhouse is complete. It's arch shaped and approximately 8'w x 10'l x 6'h, made of reinforced rip stop double layer plastic with a steel frame that is easily set up with bolts and wing nuts and it has had very little exposure to direct sunlight. The strong zippered doors at either end also have zip vents above them. At only \$60 (less than half price) it will protect your little green treasures the whole winter

long. I want this item out of my attic so first come.....and I'll even include the instructions and my personal satisfaction guarantee. I will also have some of those cat litter buckets to give away and a couple of other items to fence off.

Finally, although it seems distant, our show is less than 10 weeks away. It's been a warm winter so far (hope I'm not sorry I said that) and I'm hoping we get lots of orchids in bloom for our display. Yet again I have lost the tag on one of my most treasured orchids. You see it in the photo and it has a wonderful fragrance. Help me recall the proper name so I don't lose anymore sleep.

Anything you need to do to get those orchids ready to bloom, please do it. I am also hoping to see some of those paper "orchidgami" I sent in the website email at Christmas. I choose to construct the ghost orchid cut out because it looked easy (not so). As always, I'll be looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting when Matt Reitz will let us into his world of orchids. Happy New Year !



Yet again I have lost the tag on one of my most treasured orchids. You see it in the photo and it has a wonderful fragrance. Help me recall the proper name so I don't lose anymore sleep.

JEFF

Jeff's Orchid from Africa the leopard orchid, *Ansellia africana* blooms early.

The African *Ansellia* is commonly known as the Leopard Orchid. It is not difficult to see the rationale behind the common name when one takes a look at the *Ansellia africana* orchid, named in honor of John Ansell who discovered the first specimens when he embarked on an expedition on the Niger river. Some orchid enthusiasts claim that there is only one species of *Ansellia africana* that can be described as a monotypic genus, but the Leopard Orchid is actually a very complex group of species that all share a common growth structure and flower bearing habit. The other names that are associated with the *Ansellia africana* are as follows: *Luipaardorchidee* (Dutch), *Luiperdorgi dee* (Afrikaans); *Imfeyenkawu* (Zulu).



MEMBERSHIP NOTES by Linda Meyer

Welcome to 2017!! Doesn't saying 'the new year' sound funny the first few times you say it...every year? Well this one is going to be a great one for Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill, if the way we wound up 2016 is any indication!

We celebrated the holidays with our annual party with lunch at China Buffet, and had so much fun together. We had 46 members sign in, and several brought guests (don't have the exact number at hand), and there was plenty of room, plenty of food, and plenty of merriment! Everybody was such a good sport about getting hit with the "snowball", then answering whatever question was thrown at them! We learned a bit about where folks were from (Did you know Delia was born in London?

It turned out that lots of us love Vandas best, or at least that's the one we could think of right away when asked. We had no true Crackers; no one present had been born in Florida-let's see if we can find any at the next meeting. Linda Hindman had arranged two big boxes for Toys for Tots right at the entrance to our room, and later when she took them out to deliver to the Marine Corps, they were full of all kinds of wonderful toys, and they were *heavy*! Thank you all for the donations, and thank you Linda Hindman for all you did to make us feel good about making a bunch of area children happy at Christmas.

The buffet was topped off with dozens and dozens of cookies of all descriptions and flavors brought by our members. There was such an abundance that members were encouraged to make a bagful to take home. Delightful! Before we went home, Jeff and Geary presided over the raffle of a slew of various wonderful healthy orchids There was a tremendous spirit of holiday socializing, and the only regrets are that we didn't get to see every member at the party.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from prior page)

We really did miss you if you weren't there. Hopefully you'll be at the next one!

We will once again be starting the New Year with the collection of **Membership Dues**, which are for the calendar year. The Board has decided to keep the rate the same, so once again it is \$17 for an individual membership, and \$25 for a couple or family. What a bargain! Membership means that you are invited to all of our informative meetings and yummy social events (hmm, seems like our meetings have been pretty yumm too.) Club membership also means you are sent our wonderful newsletter, The Keiki, about which we have been hearing rave reviews from other clubs. So—please come to the 1:00 pm January 21, 2017 meeting with a check made payable to : OLCOSH (which is a lot shorter than writing Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill, but that's what it stands for!). Thank You for using a check for payment, it really simplifies the record keeping process!

Arlene Appelbaum has graciously agreed to help with Membership. And it would be great to have at least one other person willing to assist—please let us know—don't be shy! See you all soon at the VFW on County Line Road! And aren't we lucky that we won't have to shovel snow out of our driveways to get there!!

Linda Meyer - Membership Coordinator

Please come to the 1:00 pm January 21, 2017 meeting with a check made payable to : OLCOSH (which is a lot shorter than writing Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill, but that's what it stands for!). Thank You for using a check for payment, it really simplifies the record keeping process!

Remembering Betty Burkam from B&D Orchids



Betty and Don Burkam stopped doing the shows the last year we were at the SNPJ Hall. They were older and it was too much physically. Even though they weren't Carter and Holmes, Betty was a good grower and had a valuable collection. She put in an award winning exhibit a lot of times and did a lot of shows. She was mostly affiliated with Tampa Orchid Club and Tampa Bay Orchid Society. She was well until two days before she died and died from complications from a bacterial infection of the lungs. Lynn and Ed Bugbee know Betty well, even though we didn't see her much after she retired. Yes, she was a past member but lived near the Tampa clubs. No memorial service locally. She will be buried with her sisters in North Carolina.

Monthly Orchid Quiz

The orchid family is quite diverse. Which of the following statements is false?

- All orchids are fragrant.
- There are no leafless orchids.
- Some orchids are grown primarily for their leaves.
- Vanilla beans come from vining orchids.

Answer on page 6



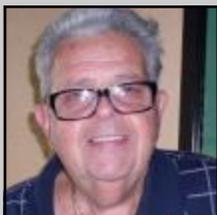
Don't forget the many good orchid books that your club has available for your use.

Our book titles are not available at your local library. Just take a look at the many titles that are available for your use, free of charge, and learn more about being an orchid expert in 2017.

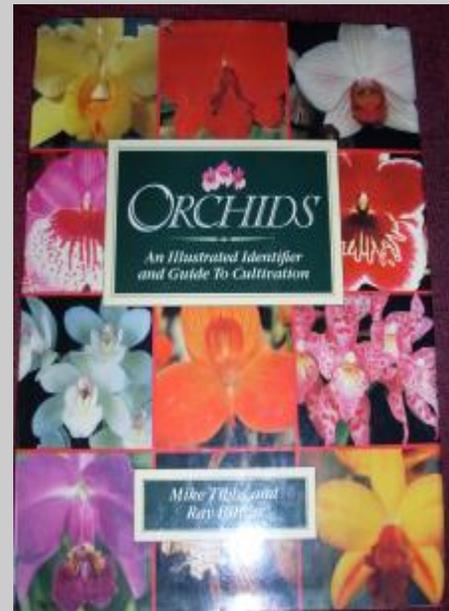
How to Use Your Library

1. Go to: www.springhillorchidclub.com
2. Point to "More" and get the dropdown menu.
3. Select and click on "Library, Checkout books".
4. On this page you will see over 60 titles.
5. You can point to any of the titles and see a brief outline of the book as well as the order number of the book.
6. Or you can click on "Alphabetical Listing" near the top of the page and go to a complete alphabetical listing.
7. The next step is to select a book order number.
8. And click on "Book Order Form at Bottom of Page"
9. Fill out the order form with the book order Number or numbers that you want to order.
10. Then click on "Submit" and the librarian will receive your order and bring you the desired book(s) to the next regular meeting. You can return it to the librarian at the next regular monthly meeting.

Our Librarian,
Tom Govan



A Sample



#300-004 Orchids an Illustrated Identifier and Guide to Cultivation. By Mike Tibbs and Ray Bilter. A little history of each orchid and cultural requirements.

Answer to Monthly Orchid Quiz From Page 4

The answer to "which of the following questions is false" is: All orchids are fragrant.

Some are so powerfully scented as to perfume your whole neighborhood. Others have no scent but rely upon shape and color to attract insects or birds for pollination.

Growing Orchids for their Foliage

Most people recognize that orchids are grown for their exotic and in many cases, extremely showy blossoms, but few indoor gardeners would think of orchids as potential foliage plants. Yet there are many that have stunning foliage with flowers being only secondary. Meanwhile, others have both lovely foliage AND great flowers. Read on to learn more about the potential orchids which may be grown as foliage houseplants.

Orchids as a foliage houseplant...seems a strange idea. Goodness knows, most orchids, when not in bloom, are rather blasé looking plants. However, with some 30,000 or so species, there are bound to be some orchids which offer more than a pretty flower. In fact, there are quite a few that offer foliage interests, either by intricately marked leaves or unusual leaf forms. In this article I will discuss a few of these foliage orchid plants. Of course, these orchids provide exquisite blooms as well, so is the foliage an added bonus or the flowers? You will have to decide on that!

There is one group of orchids which are grown primarily for their foliage. These are known as the jewel orchids. In the wild, these orchids grow among the moss and rotting vegetation on the forest floor, hence are adapted to reasonably shady locations. However, the humidity is usually high in such locations, making these orchids a bit challenging for indoor culture. A way around this is to grow them in terrariums. Jewel orchids usually form rosettes of intricately silver-veined leaves at the ends of creeping rhizomes. In season, the rosettes will produce a narrow spike of small flowers then that particular rosette will die, to be replaced by newer ones. Our native rattlesnake plantain, *Goodyera* spp., have this habit and could be considered a hardy jewel orchid. Among the tropi-

cal jewel orchids, the most common and easily-grown species is *Ludisia discolor*. The leaves are dark reddish to black-purple with bright metallic-pink veins. The small white flowers are interesting rather than showy, but do contrast nicely against the dark foliage. Similar in appearance with even more intricately veined leaves is *Anoectochilus chapaensis* (sorry these orchids have such onerous names!). *Cyclopogon elatus* also has dark purplish leaves but with bold silver veins like wandering jew. A few of the jewel orchids have leaves more like those of *Goodyera*, being green with silvery veins. Among the best is *Macodes petola* and *Anoectochilus formosanus*. There are even some tropical *Goodyera* worth considering, such as *G. reticulata* and *G. schlechtendaliana*.

Written by Todd Boland (on Dave's Garden) See the rest of this great article with pictures on ::

davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/836#b



macodes petola jewel orchid



Pictures From 2016 Orchid Christmas Party







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

Stanhopea Culture Sheet

stan-HOHP-ee-ah

Stanhopeas and related genera have large, pleated leaves and bear incredible flowers with intricate, complex structures and mechanisms for pollination, ranging from channeled walkways for insects to buckets of a watery solution. Most have inflorescences that grow downward, so the plants must be potted in hanging baskets or similar containers. Flowers are often spicily fragrant, and although the flowers are short-lived, each plant may produce many inflorescences throughout the year. Related genera Paphinia and Peristeria grow warmer than others in this group, and may produce upright inflorescences.

Light should be bright, with direct sunlight diffused so as not to burn the leaves. Most growers suspend these orchids due to their pendulous inflorescences. This also brings the plants closer to the light. Light levels approximating those for cattleyas, around 3,000 foot-candles, are best.

Temperatures should be moderate: 52° to 60° F at night, with day temperatures 68° to 75° F in the winter. Plants can stand short spells of higher temperatures, but air movement, humidity and shading must all be increased. Many species flower in the summer, and putting them outside in the summer may be beneficial. Move into higher light slowly to avoid burn.

Water in ample quantities is important to produce strong pseudobulbs and prevent foliar spotting. Stanhopeas and their relatives can be sensitive to salt accumulation in the medium, so should never be allowed to dry out entirely, even during the winter months when growth may slow or stop. Poor watering habits are also conducive to root loss in these types, and some may be very slow to re-establish once they have lost their roots.

Fertilize at regular intervals. Most growers fertilize with a diluted concentration every week to two weeks. For plants in bark, use a 30-10-10 high-nitrogen formulation, alternating with a 20-20-20 balanced formulation; in the blooming season, which is mainly summer, use a 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation. Plants grown in osmunda need fertilization only infrequently.

Potting is done best right after summer flowering, as most plants seem to grow year round. Plants that rest in the winter can be repotted in the spring. The best flowerings come from large clumps of plants, so large baskets are usually used. An airy, yet moist medium seems to work best, such as medium-grade fir bark (often mixed with sphagnum peat) or osmunda fiber. Vigorous plants may need repotting every three years or so.

Tolumnia

(*Equitant Oncidiums*)

Culture Sheet



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

The group of orchids now called *Tolumnia* were at one time called *Oncidium* section *Variegata* or commonly referred to as "equitant oncidiums". The foliage seldom exceeds 6 to 8 inches in height, and a 4-inch pot can house a "specimen" plant. The leaves are arranged in pairs overlapping or straddling one another at the base, accounting for the popular term "equitant" (derived from the Latin meaning riding a horse). Most of the species produce growths at short intervals along the rhizomes, resulting in a compact, clumping growth habit. A few, however, possess elongated rhizomes that create rambling tangles of growth. Flowers are produced primarily in the spring on 12- to 18-inch inflorescences that are often branched on older plants. Some types have much shorter, bouquet-like displays. Their petite size and ability to adapt to a fairly wide range of conditions make them suitable for growing spaces under lights or on windowsills. And wait ... don't cut off that spike after the first blooms fade. There is often a secondary spike waiting to form and provide several more weeks of bloom.

The key to growing *Tolumnias* is understanding their natural habitat. The species are endemic to the Caribbean Basin with many confined to a single island. Most of the species involved in modern hybrids are found in intermediate to warm conditions growing on twigs where they are exposed to bright light and air movement. Moisture is provided by high humidity and by daily rain showers or heavy dews. Due to constant air movement by the trade winds, plants never remain wet for long.

Grow *Tolumnias* almost anywhere an intermediate range of temperature (55° to 90°F) and relative humidity of 50 to 70 percent can be provided. Those cultivated in windows or under lights benefit from summering outdoors where climate permits.

Light Provide bright, diffused light that is somewhere between the optimal for phalaenopsis and that for cattleyas. The general rule of thumb is if shadows on the orchid bench are just discernible, the light is about right. Plants that are growing well but reluctant to bloom usually need an increase in light intensity. Once conditioned to high light, *tolumnias* are fairly tough, but when moving tender plants to a higher light situation, increase their exposure gradually to prevent burning. This is especially true when moving plants outdoors for the summer.

Continued on next page

Continued from prior page

Watering This is the most crucial aspect to success with tolumnias. There is no hard and fast rule for how often to water. Only close observation of your conditions will indicate frequency. Plants must dry out between waterings. Drying will be faster outdoors than on a humidity-enhanced windowsill. Damp, cloudy days will retard drying while bright, breezy days will hasten it. Plants on mounts can be misted daily because drying is rapid, but those in pots must be observed more closely for complete drying. The adage "if in doubt, don't water" applies here. Avoid misting or watering during the heat of the day. Water that collects in the overlapping leaf bases can reach "cooking" temperatures and severely damage plant tissue, especially the tender young growths.

Fertilizing In the natural habitat, plants are bathed with nutrients derived from decaying plant and animal matter with every rain. So, for cultivated plants, frequent and dilute feeding is the preferred approach. A balanced fertilizer applied every second or third watering at half to quarter strength should be adequate. Flushing with plain water between feedings is important because residual salts can damage the roots.

Potting and Mounting Frequency of watering and selection of substrate are closely integrated. The objective is to achieve the proper combination allowing for good irrigation with adequate aeration and rapid drying of the root area. Mounting is the method of choice; at least for a start. Twigs, cork bark, small wood or tree-fern plaques all work well. Place a pad of moss or coconut fiber around the roots and secure the plant to the mount with monofilament line or strips cut from nylon hose. A daily light misting will help establish growth. If plants on mounts show a tendency to shrivel despite regular waterings, this may indicate conditions drier than optimum. Pare off some of the mount without disturbing the plant and simply set it in a clay pot (with no medium). This procedure may afford just the right amount of extra moisture around the root area. If conditions still seem too dry, sift potting mix into the container around the base of the plant. The medium used should be porous and drain readily.

For those just starting to grow the tolumnias, this step-by-step procedure causes minimal trauma to the plant while it and the grower are getting acquainted. As you observe the results you will be able to choose the method that works best in your conditions.

Problems The airy, bright and dry cultural preference discourages most disease problems. Mealybugs and scale and aphids on the tender inflorescence are encountered most and may be dealt with simply by direct removal using a cotton swab soaked with ordinary rubbing alcohol. For larger infestations, wettable powder formulations of Malathion, Orthene, a product containing pyrethrins or one of the newer imidacloprid products (used according to manufacturer's directions) provide efficient control. Cygon seems to be toxic to the plants and should be avoided.