



Volume 25 Issue 7  
July 2017

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Speaker Segment

# THE KEIKI



Delia Dunn, Nominating Chairman installing 2017-18 Officers at the June meeting. L to R - Delia Dunn; Steve Mattana, 2nd VP; Geary Harris 1st VP; Helen Battistrada, Treasurer; Jeff Rundell, President & Pat Baig, Secretary (absent)



Saturday July 15th, regular meeting place, VFW Post 8681 at 18940 Drayton Street & County Line Road in Shady Hill. Time is 1:00 pm [Features Michael Pollen.](#) [Michael is a well renowned orchid grower and owner of Art Stone Orchids & Statuary](#) in St. Petersburg along with his wife, Paula, & brother David. They have been in business for over 60 years creating an amazing assortment of concrete stoneware for the lawn and home.

**OFFICERS**

<u>President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President &amp; 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>Kitchen Committee</u>	?????? WHO PLEASE ?????? ***
<u>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Linda Condon & Arlene Appelbaum
<u>Programs</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Publicity</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Laurie Ciannamea
<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)	

\*\*\* Anyone willing to take over the kitchen refreshment duties to replace Pat Dupke, please let Marita Reisz or Jeff Rundell know. Thank you!

**REFRESHMENT REMINDER**

By Laurie Ciannamea

**FOOD:**

Lori Cleaver  
Kishore Sooknanan  
Pat Yacco  
Lois Jensen



**Beverages:**

Linda Meyer  
Laurie Ciannamea

Additional beverages, especially bottled water, would be appreciated.

**Treasurer's Report**

By Helen Battistrada



<b>Beginning Balance :</b>	<b>\$8,633.02</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 517.00</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	<b><u>\$ 335.39</u></b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$8,814.63</b>



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

You may notice some errors in this message since I'm writing in the car (while my wife drives of course). I'm returning home from my annual 4,000 mile pilgrimage to my former home and happy to be headed south away from what was a wet cold adventure. We just stopped at New River Gorge WV, a breathtaking spot unless you don't like heights. No orchids in sight. Although I was tempted, no orchids are coming back with me only a years supply of maple syrup and a couple of dead things to use at the wildlife park. Upon arrival home I always have to hurry back to the orchid refuge holding my breath to look for victims my caretaker might have missed.

1. Our speaker this month is Michael Pollen of Art Stone Orchids. He will speak about mounting orchids, which in my view, is the purest form of art in the orchid world. His business includes statuary which he probably won't bring but be sure to check his website if you would like him to bring something special.

2. Also on our agenda is a special surprise. We will have a visitor from USF with an interesting idea. She will speak to the group for a few minutes.

3. I'm looking for someone to do a little photography project. I think it's important for all of us to know who's who. We are a large enough group so that we (read- even I ) struggle with names and faces. Name tags help but as the saying goes "a picture is worth a thousand name tags". So when you bring in a show table plant or at some other location or time, we would like a picture of you and a prize plant

to add to our website. Of course you could also just forward your own photo. Then everyone can finally put a name with a face. Perhaps even a quote if you like. See me if you'd like to be appointed membership photographer. This is strictly voluntary of course in case you prefer anonymity.

4. Question; What's the most important factor in growing any plant, including orchids? It's also the most frequently ignored factor by orchid hobbyists. Any guess? I'll write about it next month in the Keiki.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting for more adventures with orchids. Please bring your blooming plants for the show table along with any donations for the raffle (plant green or \$ green).

Jeff





*The Keiki editor suggested I submit a monthly story since my second submission contained several separate stories. This is the next one.*

**'Without a Greenhouse'**

*by Delia Dunn*

I discovered that growing orchids in Inverness was not as easy as growing in south Florida and especially without a greenhouse. We have much longer rains here and much colder weather. I revealed last month problems with insects and waterlogged plants; the cockroach 'issue' was partly taken care of by the expensive enlargement of our patio and screening, but we found that the roaches could still run in if they were standing waiting when I opened the door or they could ride in on the door when it opened. We have woods next to us and the large American roaches love to hide under the dead tree branches on the ground. I would go looking for wood to mount on and I'd pick up a nice piece only to find it crawling. UGH! I've seen masses of them burrowing in the ground underneath fallen broken branches of oak or pine trees so when our house was new they had to have been all around on the woody property. That too was a learning experience and after a while realizing we couldn't altogether get rid of these critters, Ken sprinkled roach powder around the house and he does that every few months and slowly over the years our roach powdering has kept them away from the house and the patio. I wish my other orchid problems were solved that easily.

At first after moving I had several orchids all doing beautifully. It was October and they all liked the Fall weather and I had many blooms on my very large Dendrobiums, eight or more Phals, Rhyn.digbyana, a couple of Colmanaras, an Oncidium, a Maxillaria, a Cattleya guatemalensis and two or three other really nice Cattleyas. But every one of these plants died in the next few years with the exception of my rain-loving plants: Encyclia alata got larger every year, also the cochleata; my Angraecum loved the rain and got bigger and bigger. Also my two or three Ascocendas and the Bc Makais were all mounted so loved the rain. I real-

ized that I could only grow a few types successfully in this environment. Over time I would buy new plants or win some in the raffles or someone gave me one for a gift so I recovered from these little disasters, and saved the name tag for each one I lost. And my Cattleyas were going the same way except that I saw the problem with them and was determined to fix it. Besides old bulbs that had lost their leaves and were getting soft or turning brown and having to be cut off, they had some-



thing none of my other plants had and that was boisduval scale, the white stuff that gets in the center of the leaves and in the ridges of the wrinkled pseudo bulbs.

I learned I had to remove the loose paper-like sheath material surrounding the pseudobulbs as it's a hiding place for the scale. I tried swabbing with alcohol to no avail. I asked at meetings what to do and suggestions were given to spray with alcohol, use Q-Tips, use a toothbrush, detergent, Neem oil, but it wasn't enough and the scale persisted and I didn't have the patience or the timing to keep repeating the process with the alcohol. I'd be bringing in one plant at a time to the sink and going over it with a toothbrush only to find out the brush hurt the wrinkled bulbs and the leaves and found that the stuff always came back. I was destroying the plant with repetitive brushings. . .I didn't want to use pesticides due to health hazards and finally, hearing a talk on the subject by a member, Dave Dobson, who said '*and there's always blasting with the hose*', that is what I



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resorted to. And it's been the only thing that has worked successfully for me. The leaves did get scarred where I hosed them but I found that reducing the hose pressure a bit did not cause the damage and was careful to hold the leaf so it wouldn't break and aim the jet close into the center of the affected leaf and the scale would be gone and then I sprayed with full strength alcohol with a little detergent all over the wet plant. The pseudobulbs were able to take the hose pressure better, unlike the rubbing or scratching of a toothbrush. Back then I had a few thin, wrinkled pseudobulbs from the sucking insects and lack of fertilizer so they were extremely delicate and I thought I would never have a healthy plant but eventually the scale stayed gone and the stronger plants survived (less rain in the Fall and more fertilizer!)

Scale might appear now on a leaf and I wipe it with a cotton ball; the remaining damage from the scale is a little yellow spot on the leaf. For years now my various Cattleyas have done well and look healthy. I've not found scale on a pseudobulb since the first infestation and I have to say that looking at pictures on line, my amount of scale was quite minimal in comparison to some. After it was cleared up it felt as if the Cattleyas wanted to be healthy as they were cooperating with me. When they were all sick it was like no hope as nothing

seemed to work.



I also had a time with soft brown scale on my Phals and I would remove it with a cotton ball and alcohol easily enough but all my new (clean) Phals would get the scale and I came to realize they were dying from (again) too much water, so the roots were no good and the plant was then susceptible to the scale.

However, I had one Phal that I purchased at our Auction in November 2001: *Phal. Brother Passat AQ/AOS x Phal. Brother Lawrence AQ/AOS* pictured here:



As I do with all my orchids, I read about it online and Phal. Brother Lawrence was used for breeding. Back then I read *'that there were still hybridizers working hard to produce better yellows. Ask any hybridizer how hard it is to find a good parent for breeding yellows. Low fertility and low count of viable seeds are the biggest problems. Fading is another problem hybridizers must deal with. Phal. Brother Lawrence (Taipei Gold x De-venteriana) seems to be free of these two major obstacles. It is fertile; it has minimal fading and is capable of producing a number of flowers on multiple inflorescences.'*

I certainly found all that to be true as I grew it outdoors in the rain in the hot summer sun, east side of the house hanging on a long hanger under the roof and it grew beautifully in very loose sphagnum moss in the large plastic pot you see here. It did have drainage holes in it in the bottom but there was an attached saucer under the pot which would hold water but the sphagnum dried up very quickly. At times it was a little moist. There were lots of roots throughout the sphagnum. Rain sat in the leaves if turned the wrong way and I didn't move the plant out of the rain. The plant had no scale and it put out little plantlets or keikis and it was hard to tell which was the original plant. The mother plant just kept producing in that large pot but the plant was hanging over, which I believe is the way they prefer to grow as it keeps rain from getting into the top leaf. So it was getting heavier on one side and I would remove the smaller plants to lighten it up and to start new ones. I wonder today what it would have looked like if I'd never removed a keiki.



According to my notes *'In 10/03 I have the mother plant and one keiki. This plant is very strong as I think the mother has also another plant beside it. In May 2006 Had this plant for years and have cut it up and still have the plant. It never has problems. Blooms almost all year. Loves sun & shade & sphagnum, just keeps growing with beautiful leaves. In 2007 This plant just keeps on giving.'*

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There are many plants in the one pot. I finally split it regretfully, and sold a couple and lost a few keikis and have potted a good remaining plant. *In 2012 started another basket.*

2007.5.1



I took it for the Show Table in 2008—I think Dave Dobson was greatly suspicious — they hadn't seen a Phal that 'wild' or maybe that large - I loved the plant because it was growing wild like in nature and I couldn't have staked the inflorescences because the plant was overhanging the pot.



2008.4.25

Here are pictures showing one of the grown keikis blooming in 2012 and I don't see any more pictures after late June of that year and I think that last keiki gave it up shortly after that. I remember having masses of roots in the wooden baskets and the plants hanging completely out and I recall little black sun-burned places on the leaves and the leaves finally fell off and that was the end. Initially I had wanted to help the mother plant by splitting off the keikis but they just were not strong enough. I tried to get the keikis to grow in loose sphagnum but they didn't all survive. I later read they should have been left on longer or potted with the mother in the same medium. The original plant had everything just perfect, the right medium, location and the right moisture.

2012.3.23  
buds on  
a keiki



Since that time I have had many Phalaenopses but I have not tried to grow one again outside in the elements and my ability to grow them successfully indoors is not there YET! I did solve the brown scale problem by growing them inside and I think they did better for a while and I am careful to wait until they are nearly dry to water; but they dry out quicker in the house from the A/C and I just can't seem to get it right and eventually the leaves either turn yellow and fall off or all the leaves wrinkle even when the moss is damp, and they're gone.

Holding  
her own  
2012.5.10



And now that I've read all this I see one more thing I can try and I have filled a tray full of rock and filled it with water and placed my 3 remaining Phals on the rock in the dining room away from the A/C where hopefully a little humidity will keep them growing in the house.

2012.6.2





**MINUTES June 17, 2017**

Jeff Rundell was out of town for this month's meeting, so Geary Harris brought the meeting to order. Out guest speaker was Louis Del Favero, who also brought some great plants for sale.

Delia Dunn welcomed and installed the new Board members elected in the recent election:

- Jeff Rundell – President
- Geary Harris – First VP
- Steve Mattana– second VP and program chair. Steve replaces Donna Fazekas who is not returning this year. The club thanks Donna for her past service
- Helen Battistrada - Treasurer
- Pat Baig – Executive Secretary. Pat replaces Pat Dupke, who has had to step down due to health issues. We thank Pat Dupke for her service and wish her well.

The members pledged their full support for the new Board, and the Board members promised to carry out their duties to the Orchid Lovers' Club of Spring Hill.

Delia also mentioned that the secretarial duties have been split for several years, with others helping to take the meeting minutes. The latest person doing that is Matt Riesz, and Delia thanked him for his help on behalf of the club

Helen Battistrada presented this month's abbreviated financial report

- Last Month's Balance: \$8,633.02
- Receipts                                 \$ 517.00
- Disbursements                         \$ 335.39

- Ending Balance:                     \$ 8,814.63

**Membership**

Linda Condon gave our membership report: We had a person who will join the club as a member next meeting. There were also several guests present, who were heartily welcomed. Our current membership tally stands at 102, which is excellent. Linda noted that members receive a free raffle ticket if they bring a guest, so it's in your best interest to do so! Geary noted that membership has skyrocketed under Jeff Rundell's leadership and enthusiasm.

Wendy Paracka made some great new club business cards, which were available for members to take with them. Thanks, Wendy! Wendy also gave us a report on the Redlands Festival, which she and several others attended. It was a great show, with incredible orchids and many familiar faces. The club will also plan a trip next year, which will be the weekend following Mothers' Day in 2018.

Steve Mattana gave a report on the coming speakers.

- July: Michael Pollan from Art Stone Company. Michael will talk about repotting and mounting orchids.
- August: Donna Goodwin, from Goodwin Orchids. Donna will talk about Ascocendas and Vandas
- September: Steve's friend from Clearwater will talk about Encyclias and water management.
- October: Club picnic
- November: Club auction
- December: Christmas party
- January: Peter Lin from Big Leaf Orchids in Texas. Peter will talk about growing

(Continued from prior page)

Phalaenopsis orchids, and we may be able to put together a pre-order for special plants from him. He also has some great Paphiopedilums. We will be splitting the cost of his travel with the Tampa Bay Orchid Society.

- February: Peter Linn, from California. He's a Cattleya guy and will be bringing special plants with him.
- March: Annual orchid show.

Geary asked for volunteers to judge the show table. There were few until he explained it, and Matt volunteered to lead the process and help the others learn a bit. We adjourned for refreshments, and for the show table to be judged.

After returning, Matt Riesz and Louis Del Favero talked about the plants on the show table, which was especially beautiful this month, with several really special plants.

Steve introduced our speaker, Louis Del Favero from Del Favero Orchids in Tampa. Louis talked to us about several interesting species and hybrid plants that he brought with him, and how he is able to grow them even though some are not reputed to do well in our area.

After Louis' talk, the raffles were drawn and the meeting was adjourned. Minutes Submitted by Matt Reisz



#### A note about the Minutes

The minutes presented 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](mailto:kdunn004@tampabay.rr.com)

#### WHAT IS YOUR BIRTH ORCHID?

[January-Dendrobium](#)

[February-Lycaste](#)

[March-Zygopetalum](#)

[April-Odontoglossum](#)

[May-Masdevallia](#)

[June-Vanda](#)

[July-Paphiopedilum](#)

[August-Phalaenopsis](#)

[September-Oncidium](#)

[October-Cattleya](#)

[November-Epidendrum](#)

[December-Cymbidium](#)

## SHOW TABLE JUNE 17, 2017 by Matt Riesz

Plant Name	Grower	How long owned	Years	Ribbon?
			Growing Orchids	
Blc. Rustic Spots	Delia Dunn	6 yrs	23	
Encyclia alata	Delia Dunn	22 yrs	23	y
Ascocenda Butterfly x V, Dr, Anek Bai	Gary Gethen		24	
Vanda tessellata	Gary Gethen	15 yrs	24	
Vascostylis Thailand	Gary Gethen	8 yrs	24	Y
Laelia purpurata 'Werk' x Cattleya mossiae f. coerulea	Gary Gethen		24	
Dendrobium Hibiki Pink 'Tiny Bubbles'	Gary Gethen	1 yr	24	
Phragmipedium Olaf Gruss	Gary Gethen	7 yrs	24	
Laelia briegeri flamea	Gary Gethen	6 yrs	24	
Epidendrum rousseauae	Gary Gethen	1 yr	24	
Vanda Spring Beauty	J. Parker	2 yrs	20	
Doritaenopsis Kenneth Shuber 'Blue star'	Judy Smith	2 yrs		y
Cyrtopodium Harold Lyons	Judy Smith	3 yrs		
Specklinia grobyi	Keith Adrian	1 yr		y
Stanhopea lietzi 'White Bird' x self	Matt Riesz	1.5 yrs	17	
Epidendrum ciliare	Matt Riesz	8 mos	17	
Encyclia mariae	Matt Riesz	6 yrs	17	
Laeliocattleya Tiny Treasure 'Star Amethyst' HCC/AOS	Matt Riesz	4 yrs	17	
Blc. Everything Nice 'Showtime'	Patricia Yacco	8 mos	4	
Phalaenopsis (Ambonosa X Pip Squeak) x amboinensis	Steve Mattana	7 mos		
Phalaenopsis indeo violacea	Steve Mattana	6 mos		y
Maxillaria tenuifolia	Wendy Paracka	2 yrs	3	y
Epidendrum ciliare	Wendy Paracka	1 yr	3	
Dendrobium Maiden Charlotte	Wendy Paracka	1 yr	3	
Phalaenopsis Hsinying Kittle Knight 'Trinity'	Wendy Paracka	2 mos	3	

### LIBRARIAN

Celeste Ogden says

“We have some great books!”

Learn from a professional  
how to care for your orchids

- Keep the book for a month! Click on:

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

And then click on:

[Alphabetical Listing Library Books](#)

“I even bring the books to  
you at the meeting”



Matt Riesz is discussing the Show Plants brought to the meeting by various members. All members are encouraged to bring their blooming plants and share them with the membership.



## Membership Notes

By Linda Condon

At the June meeting of the Orchid Lovers Club 50 members and seven visiting guests signed in, including one who joined and became a member. Please let's welcome:

Linda Rhodes

20180 Barnett Rd, Unit,

Brooksville, FL 34601

352-777-1084

[witchewoman4u2@gmail.com](mailto:witchewoman4u2@gmail.com)

The meeting was wonderful. There were beautiful members' orchids for the show table, the Installation of our Officers for the upcoming year, and a terrific talk by Louis Del Favero, who also had brought gorgeous orchids for us to drool over, and actually buy.

The chance to socialize while enjoying the always amazing selection of goodies during the refreshment break was certainly appreciated-so I know you will love the annual club picnic to be held later in the year. Be sure to sign up for it and mark it on your calendar.

And plan to be at the July 15th meeting to hear Michael Pollen speak about "mounting orchids on sticks" (as our friend and newly elected 2nd vice-president Steve Mattana says!) Club members always really enjoy learning how to successfully mount orchids, so don't miss this chance! Also don't forget to bring a guest, and receive some free additional raffle tickets! I plan to see you there!

Stay cool- Linda

## HOW TO TELL IF YOU ARE OVER WATERING

### *Mushy Roots*

These will be dark looking and very mushy.

### *Limp Leaves*

These will usually have spots or blotches of yellowing and or darkening.

### *Decaying Leaves*

At the base of your leaves near the plant you may see signs of rotting or growths on the underside of leaves.

### *Overall Lack of Health*

The plant will appear to be generally struggling, weak, and lack-luster

There are, however, the well-meaning but overprotective orchid owners who have heard of the evils of over-watering and keep their plants on a strict ration of a few ounces of water once every other week. This most often results in another problem just as serious as the first, and that's under-watering. One of the most distressing things about an under-watered orchid is that its symptoms are almost identical to over-watering. Fearing for the life of their precious orchid, these water-shunning owners further abstain from supplying the much needed liquid, and the poor orchid languishes away from thirst. SO

Remove the suffering orchid from its pot and trim off all the rotting roots. Depending on how much damage there is to the plant, this may be a rather brutal process and the plant may appear rather bare of roots afterward. If this happens you should place the root end of the orchid in a plastic bag and put the bagged orchid somewhere warm but out of direct sunlight. This will induce humidity and stimulate the growth of new roots. Repot your orchid in potting mix that provides better drainage and reduce watering to once every 4-7 days.

Monitor the health of the plant and adjust the watering schedule to its needs. Remember to always water during the daytime to allow your orchid sufficient time to dry off during the warm day and before nightfall. Your orchid will slowly put out thick new leaves and begin blooming again.

Orchids Displayed by Members at the June 17th Meeting



ASDA. BUTTERFLY X DR. ANEK BAI



DORITAENOPSIS KENNETH SHUBER 'BLUE STAR'



VASCOSTYLIS THAILAND



STAN. LIETZII 'WHITE BIRD' X SELF



V. TESSELLAA



STAN. LIETZII 'WHITE BIRD' X SELF (2)

Orchids Displayed by Members at the June 17th Meeting



V. SPRING BEAUTY



PHAL. (AMBOBOSA X PIP SQUEEK) X AMBOINENSIS



ENCYCLIA MARIAE



BLC. RUSTIC SPOTS



BLC. EVERYTHING NICE 'SHOWTIME'



PHAL. INDEO VIOLACEA

## Orchids Displayed by Members at the June 17th Meeting



LC. TINY TREASURE 'STAR AMETHYST'



ENC. ALATA



EPI. CILIARE



EPI. CILIARE (2)



DORITAENOPSIS KENNETH SHUBER 'BLUE STAR' (2)

SHOW TABLE PICTURES AND CAPTIONS  
COURTESY OF MATT RIESZ



## SPEAKER SEGMENT

By Kara Warnock

Our speaker for this month was Louis Del Favero of Del Favero Orchids out of Tampa, Florida.

For those of you who have not yet visited his greenhouses, they truly are an oasis in an urban jungle. His nursery is located at 6601 Gant Road; it is easy to access just east of the Veterans Expressway off of Gunn Highway (there are signs that direct you from Gunn Hwy). Louis has been growing orchids now for the past 50 years and he is extremely knowledgeable in this field. At his nursery Louis likes to specialize in orchids that are unique including several species orchids and miniatures. Today he spoke about several different genera of orchids that are grown in his greenhouses.



orchids does not do well here since the majority of plants cannot tolerate the sweltering heat that is Florida. However, Louis has found that one particular warm growing hybrid, Miltoniopsis Golden

Miltoniopsis, or the pansy orchids, are typically cool growing orchids that originate in the higher elevations of the Andes in Colombia. This group of

Snows 'White Light', not only does well here, it seems to thrive under our environmental conditions. This plant has fragrant, large white flowers with a yellow center that form on a cascading, waterfall-like inflorescence. At his nursery these plants are grown in small 2-3 inch clay pots packed with sphagnum moss in order to keep the roots cooler. As the plants mature they are potted up into larger 4 inch plastic pots. If you would like to try your luck experimenting with some of the typically cooler growing Miltoniopsis, Louis suggests sticking to the smaller flowered varieties as they might provide a better chance for successful cultivation in our warm climate.

The Masdevallias are another beautiful group of orchids that are a challenge to grow here in Florida. Their native habitat is the high altitude cloud forests of the Andes in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. The majority of species require very cool conditions and abundant moisture throughout the year. They are not tolerant of dry conditions, low humidity, or excessive temperatures. Some of the smaller flowered Masdevallias can be warmth tolerant and can be successfully grown here if provided the right microclimate. Louis suggests growing them in small clay pots with sphagnum moss under high light (similar to Cattleya). One of the most well-known species that is able to tolerate Florida's warm conditions is *M. florbunda*. This species has small, white flowers and pale yellow to white sepals with purple dots. This species is considered free-flowering generally blooming from summer to fall. Some other species of Masdevallia that are known to be warmth tolerant include: *M. collina*, *M. infracta*, *M. pyxis*, and *M. torta*.

(Continued on next page)

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Another genus that Louis enjoys growing at his greenhouse is *Ornithocephalus*, a relatively small orchid that is native to Central and South America. This orchid has very fleshy, succulent-like leaves arranged in a fan shape and produces a flurry of small white, greenish-white, or yellow flowers (dependent on the species) across several spikes. These orchid plants can be orientated and grown in nearly every position: upright, sideways, or upside down. You can experiment what works best with your growing set up. For Louis at their greenhouse they tend to grow them orientated sideways in small clay pots with sphagnum. They are watered often making sure that the sphagnum moss never completely dries out between waterings. He grows at least 7 different species of *Ornithocephalus* at his greenhouse.

A precious little miniature orchid that can be found at his greenhouse is *Schoenorchis fragrans*. This species is a member of the *Vanda* family and is native to Thailand and Southeast Asia. This orchid has small, fleshy leaves with warty roots and displays a cluster of jewel-like, highly fragrant flowers that are a pinkish-purple color. Louis likes to mount this orchid on corkwood, crape myrtle, or buttonwood. Although this orchid is typically slow growing it can be quiet the unique treasure once



the plant has reached blooming size.

Another favorite of his is the *Lockhartia* genera, a relative of the *Oncidium* family that is native to Cen-

tral South America. Louis grows 7 different species of *Lockhartia* at his nursery including *Lockhartia Gold Speck* (*Lockhartia oerstedii* x *Lockhartia acuta*). *Lockhartia Gold Speck* is a charming plant that can bloom multiple times a year producing tiny yellow flowers with reddish-brown spots on distinctive braided canes. At his nursery Louis will take cuttings from the canes of his stock plants in order to create new individual plants. These plants are capable of growing up to a foot tall and a foot and a half wide, yet the roots can be contained to a small 4-5 inch pot.

At his nursery Louis grows several species of *Dendrobiums* including some unusual species. One such unique find that he grows is *Den. sutiknoi*, an interesting antelope type *Dendrobium* that is newly discovered from New Guinea. This plant has green flowers with brown or yellowish-cream markings and the flower shape resembles that of a winged insect in flight. This plant can get large reaching heights of 6-7 feet. The flowers are long lasting and can persist up to 3 months before fading. Another antelope type *Dendrobium* that he grows at the greenhouse is *Den. antennatum*. This orchid would be considered a dwarf antelope type compared to the aforementioned species since it only reaches a height of 3 feet. *Den. antennatum* has long lasting flowers that are white in color with touches of green on the sepals and pink to purple veining on the lip. In general, the antelope type *Dendrobiums* are cold sensitive and likely do not encounter temperatures below 60F in their native habitat. However, Louis will let his plants get down to around 45F in the greenhouse, and they seem to tolerate these lower temperatures just fine. He grows his *Dendrobiums* in small clay pots (careful not to over-pot) using a mixture that provides them good drainage. He has found that *Den. antennatum* is accepting of potted, basket, and mounted culture.

(Continued from prior page)

These orchids prefer high light and good air movement especially during times of warm temperatures.



Another interesting Dendrobium that he grows is Dendrobium Fire Wings, a hybrid orchid from the latouria type. It is

an easy to grow plant that stays fairly compact with showy flowers appearing in shades of pinks and purples that can last for 3 months or more. This plant can easily put out a flush of flowers a couple of times per year. Special care should be taken when repotting the latouria type in order to disturb the roots as little as possible. If the roots are disturbed too much or the plant is significantly divided up, the plant will likely sulk for a period of time (up to 2 years) after the repotting.

At his nursery Louis grows his orchids in baskets, on mounts, and in pots using organic and sometimes inorganic potting media. Generally speaking when potting orchids using an organic mix (bark based) you want to use the smallest sized pot possible to keep the plant happy and allow for some new growth. He has noticed that the plants that are slightly under potted seem to be the most content. Due to the breakdown of organic potting mixtures plants will require repotting about every 2 years. Louis likes to use an inorganic mixture of Rockwool, charcoal, and sponge rock in potting several species of orchids. Using an inorganic potting mixture allows for more time between repotting (up to 4-5 years of growth). When using an inorganic mixture you can safely use a larger pot for your plants, allowing them to grow towards specimen size before having their roots disturbed. For those not fa-

miliar with Rockwool it is a hydroponic substrate that is made from spinning molten basaltic rock into fine fibers (looks like lint). It has a unique capacity to hold moisture and air within its fibers providing both to the roots of the plant. Louis has successfully grown species of Lycaste, Phragmipedium, and Paphilopedium with this Rockwool mixture, including some plants that required being nursed back to health from desiccation



50 Members and 7 Guests Signed In at the Last Meeting.



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