



Volume 25 Issue 6  
June 2017

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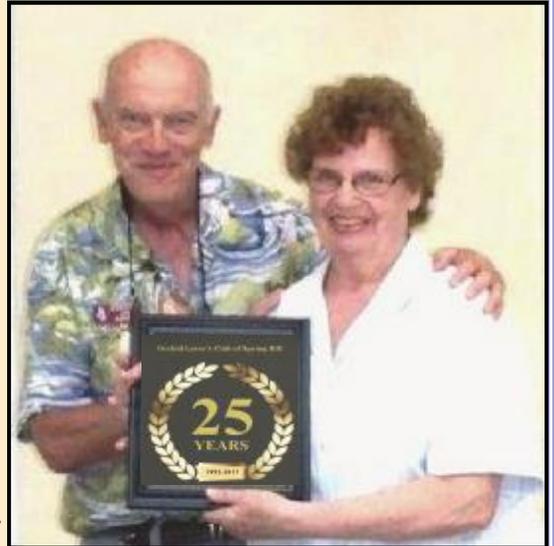
# THE KEIKI



At the May meeting, Special recognition was given to Pat Dupke, the only current member of our Club who was one of the original charter members.

President, Jeff Rundell, presented her with this framed certificate which had printed on it:

"This is to recognize Pat Dupke for her 25 Years of Dedicated Service and as a Charter Member of The Orchid Lover's Club of Spring Hill"



**Lc. Princess Road**



**Vanda Robert's Delight 'Ink Star'**



Our next meeting will be on June 17. Our speaker for the June meeting will be Louis Del Favero Meeting will be at our regular meeting place, VFW Post 8681 at 18940 Drayton Street & County Line Road in Shady Hill. Time is 1:00 pm

**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> (not an elected position)	Matt Riesz

**COMMITTEES**

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Ken & Delia Dunn
<u>Mailing the Keiki</u>	Tim Smith
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Kitchen Co-ordinator</u> (temporary)	Marita Reisz
<u>Kitchen Committee</u>	??????????
<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)



**Ascocentrum ampullaceum**

**REFRESHMENT REMINDER**

By Laurie Ciannamea

**FOOD:**

Linda Condon  
Mary Lou Mattana  
Pat Yacoo



**Beverages:**

Bottled water is requested.

No beverages or juice are needed for the June meeting. Thank you!



**Treasurer's Report**

By Helen Battistrada

<b>Balance :</b>	<b>\$9,190.81</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 236.00</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	<b><u>\$ 793.79</u></b>
<b>Balance: 5/20/2017</b>	<b>\$8,633.02</b>



***Oncidium sphacelatum***



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

As you read this I am probably 1,500 miles north of the VFW. Why? Good question and I'm hoping to limit this pilgrimage to my former home to 3 weeks and less than 10 beds. My cat sitter is more nervous about caring for the orchids than caring for the cats. The words I get from up there are "cold and wet"; no surprise there. I now have my greenhouse totally enveloped in shade cloth (60% on the vertical walls and 50% on the clear roof) which has helped bring the temperature below the boiling point. Here are a couple of points for everyone to consider:

1. Lots of us are currently repotting and dividing orchids. Wouldn't some of those divisions help make our auction sweeter? So please think about the club's major fundraiser coming up in the fall when you chop up those huge overgrown plants. Just tie a ribbon (or flag tape) around them for so that you can remember to share them when auction time arrives. We never know if we are going to get a large donation of plants, as we have in the last few years, so we always hope members can contribute.
2. We are all enthusiastic at our meetings! I know it's a chance to see and visit with your friends and strike up conversations with visitors and new members. We need to do our best to keep the conversation to a minimum during the meeting and especially during the speaker segment (cell phones too). After all, you might miss the one point that will help you grow that AOS prize winner. Strange how quiet it is when I announce raffle winners.

3. I mentioned that a questionnaire about how to improve our club is coming, so if there are items you'd like to see included please contact me.
4. We have a new registration form for our show table that we hope will be an improvement.
5. Let's get more blooming plants on our show table. Your plant doesn't have to be a show stopper to show up. I'd be interested in comparing the blooms of those new Paph orchids many of us purchased at the last meeting.

Remember also that help is always available for those problem children.

Bring a friend to our next meeting and get a raffle ticket.

I've included a picture of one of my favorite primary hybrids blooming now

*Cattleya schilleriana* x *Cattleya loddigesii*

by Jeff





A collection of some of our past awards exhibited at our 25th Anniversary Meeting



Room setup for our 25th anniversary meeting at the United Methodist Church in Spring Hill



Mary Lou Mattana did a great job of displaying a few of our Club awards. Many of them have been missing but fortunately we have pictures of them which are on the website.



Two of our 'seasoned' members in the club are Ruth Redeker on the left who joined in 1992 and Helen Battistrada who joined in 1993.

Cake, Punch and ice cream were enjoyed by all members and guests to celebrate our 300th meeting or event and our 25th anniversary year as an Orchid Club.

Many thanks go to the girls who worked in the kitchen to prepare our refreshments:

Connie Chase

Ruth Redeker

Pat Baig who volunteered was ill that day but sent her sister to work in her place.

Thank you ladies!! And many thanks again to Pat Dupke for picking up the cake, cookies and ice cream and to Laurie Ciannamea for buying the bottles of punch ingredients and the sherbet. Laurie also worked in the kitchen, volunteering that day.



Our new board for the next year.

Jeff Rundell, President

Helen Battistrada, Treasurer

Steve Mattana, 2nd VP

Geary Harris, 1st VP

Pat Baig, Secretary, was absent



**MY ORCHID STORY**  
**'Without a Greenhouse'**  
*by Delia Dunn*

My interest in orchids started in 1994 when Ken and I were living in south Florida. I'd never seen an orchid but had a great love of plants and a green thumb and a visiting friend who belonged to an orchid club on the east coast gave me a cutting from her Dendrobium Jacqueline Thomas. She told me to give it lots of water, keep the pot small



and fertilize with 20-20-20. It was shortly after that we read in the paper that there was to be an orchid show in the Coral Springs Mall the next week so I went to see what it was all about and while there I purchased a couple of plants. I was totally impressed, wished I could buy more and came away with my most remembered advice from a vendor to 'give them lots of water' (*I later learned that we need to know more when someone gives us general advice.*)

The back of our house faced west and was on a canal, which all the homes used for their sprinkler system and fertilizer runoff would go into the canal, not to mention all the abundant animal and bird droppings and as a result, we got enormous growth from this fertilized water. I had two Dens hanging under the roof and the sprinklers gave a good spray right along the roof line. I was slowly adding to my collection with other types of orchids, placing some on the covered porch next to the screen and others outside hanging or on the ground so they could catch the sprinkler and get more light.

My little 'starter' Den (left) became a very large specimen plant with hundreds of fat buds and flowers on lots of long stems, as did several others. The canal water and sprinkling several times a week was evidently just what they liked and the afternoon sun dried the morning fertilizings.



In the Fall of 1994 we read that the *Coral Springs Orchid Society* was meeting very close to where we lived so I went to my first meeting and there were so many people I had to actually wait in line outside the building to get into the meeting room. The fragrance in the room literally took my breath away - as did the number of plants members brought in! They had 4 people on the membership table, 4 very long and crowded show tables and a group assigned to judge the plants before the meeting started. Plants had to be presented before a certain time and judging started punctually at a certain time. Everything I saw indicated to me that orchid growing must be a very serious business. Speakers and vendors came from all areas of Florida from Homestead to Apopka. I felt very humble being among these people who could grow such amazing plants and here I was with just a convenient sprinkler system! (At the time I didn't think that due to the large number of man-made canals in that area of Florida, there would be many people who used canal water for sprinkling.) I was eager to learn and took notes at every meeting and if I couldn't go I sent my husband to take notes (*one night he took 4 pages of hand written notes just on Phalaenopsis!*). I absorbed everything I heard and saw and knew this was an ex-

citing new interest for me. I went to the orchid show in Miami and bought several plants, and went to other orchid events in the area over the next couple of years.

In October 1997 Ken retired and we moved north



to the southern part of Inverness, off Hwy 41, in a small deed-restricted community, totally surrounded by large live oaks and a nature preserve behind us for wild birds and deer. It would be the perfect place for orchids to grow on trees if only there was no cold weather in the winter! We moved with a lot of nice orchids. We had a covered porch at the back 7' wide, this time facing east. We put hooks under the roof and hung the Dendrobiums and wanted things to be relatively like it had been in south Florida but we found a drastic difference. We now had to pay for City water which didn't have bird and animal droppings or grass fertilizer in it and the sprinklers had nothing in common with the roof overhang!

Then it turned cold. We moved plants into the nook where we had the most light. We had company from Canada when all my Dens were blooming and the lady said my nook looked like the Botanical Gardens. But those were basically south Florida raised plants. I was thinking things wouldn't be so easy in Inverness and that proved to be very true. After they stopped blooming we hung the large Dens on the garage door track.

They survived the cold winter beautifully. I basically forgot about them. The next Spring we hung them on a chain between two trees. As they got heavier they pulled on the chain and as the trunk

grew the chain cut into it. After two years we took it down (with major surgery) because we were hurting the tree and after a couple of years there was too much shade anyway. We tried hanging them from branches but I had too many orchids and too few branches and it was difficult on the hilly and bumpy ground for me to get to the pots to fertilize. The other plants were smaller and easier to handle sitting or hanging on the porch. I was getting adjusted to the new climate and the changes that winter brought and in 1999 we saw an ad in the Citrus Chronicle for the *Orchid Lovers Club* so I attended a meeting and during my first visit, grower, Ed Bugbee, and several members commented on my light orange Cattleya I'd brought for the show table and asked for a cutting when it got bigger. That made a great first visit and I joined that day and started learning new culture tips. I was also an avid reader on the internet learning all I could about the different plants I had and started a computer scrapbook where I kept a running inventory with pictures, culture and notes for each of my orchids. (*You've heard Jeff refer to people like me!*)

Meanwhile in my new environment the first Spring it rained little so I was watering frequently (*never forgetting what I was told about water*) when I discovered that during the summer we get a deluge in Inverness almost every afternoon. I was unfamiliar with that much rain and the effects it would have on the plants. Fertilizing became a problem: if I did it in the morning, the rain washed it out in the afternoon, the plants got too wet, the next week I'd want to re-fertilize and it would be the same thing all over again. I had to either wait until afternoon to fertilize so I wouldn't waste it the next morning but then it would be wetting them all over again after the rains, or move the plants under roof to try to dry them out.

(Continued from prior page)

Judging from the number of plants I lost *I think it would have been better to not fertilize at all than to get them too wet.* I sure wasn't worried about fertilizer salt buildup! I had to rely on Nutricote granules to help with fertilizing but they just weren't enough.



***Cockroaches seemed to be common and liked the porch. Cattleyas had white stuff on them, new shoots were turning black; new shoots on Dens were turning brown and mushy; even full grown Dens were getting mushy stems over the winter,*** plants I'd brought with me eventually passed on and new plants I had the nerve to buy were dying quickly. I had a lot to contend with and fix. Needless to say cuttings of my orange plant never materialized and that had been my favorite plant. It was a perfect time to just quit the whole thing and save time and money. But it was strange, I wanted to buy more plants!! I had better things to spend money on but whenever I lost a plant it was like a challenge to do better.

I realized that most of the problems were from *too much water, not enough fertilizer and not knowing what to do for the plants in the winter.* So in 2002, to make better room for my plants and to keep out mosquitoes (& those other creatures) we extended part of our porch outward by adding a screened 28' x 16' concrete patio with screened cage. We enclosed the other part of the covered porch with removable vinyl windows and door to keep in heat from a space heater and that would store my plants during summer rains and during winter. Then Ken built an 8' high L-shaped trellis along 3/4 the length and 1/4 the width of the patio about 18" deep and has hooks along the top boards every 15" to hang plants and they can also

hang on the front of the trellis. There is a treated wooden bench lower down that might have been good to sit on but the plants needed that space too! I loved the new patio with the screen keeping all the bugs out and there was room to spread the plants out and some could have morning sun and the ones on the trellis got afternoon sun. We installed a hose on the patio and we even bought an outdoor fan. By then I'd learned technical terms for my problems: *biosduval scale and brown scale on the Cattleyas, occasional 'snow mold' fungus in the bark and of course, 'root rot'.* *And I've since learned, even lack of calcium!*

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)



This is the brand new trellis



This is a year or two later after it's been rained on a lot



**MINUTES May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The meeting was held at the First United Methodist Church on Spring Hill Drive, as the VFW was unavailable. Jeff Rundell brought the meeting to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Treasurer Helen Battistrada gave us the financial report:

Opening Balance:	\$9190.81
Receipts:	\$236.00
Disbursements:	<u>\$793.79</u>
Closing Balance:	\$8633.02

Club elections were held. Delia Dunn, chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of nominees. There were no nominations from the floor, and after a motion to approve by Sue Caparbi-Taylor was made and seconded by Dan Grant, the full slate was voted on and elected by the membership. The new officers, to be installed next month, are:

- President: Jeff Rundell
- First Vice President Geary Harris
- Second Vice President Steve Mattana
- Secretary: Pat Baig
- Treasurer: Helen Battistrada

The board has been collecting suggestions about how to improve our club. Look for a questionnaire in your email over the next couple of months. Input from the membership is very important.

This meeting marked our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club. In honor of that we had a cake, and Ken Dunn led us through some of the pictures and memories of the past years. Delia Dunn then gave

a presentation about the club's history, thanking some of the early members. A table of Club awards was also set up for the members to admire. Special recognition was given to Pat Dupke, the only current member who was also one of our charter members.

We broke for refreshments (cake and ice cream – yay!), and returned to hear a special presentation by Larry Desiano, Past President of the Deep Cut Orchid Society in NJ and now a resident of Sarasota. Larry talked to us about the wonderful world of slipper orchids. Several members were able to obtain Maudiae-type Paphiopedilums that were ordered specially for the occasion from Lehua Orchids by Steve Mattana.

Next month's speaker will be Louis Del Favero, who will talk about miniatures. He will be bringing plants for sale.

The Membership Raffle was held and the general raffle.

Jeff and Matt discussed the show table plants briefly, due to limited time available, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully 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)

**OLCOSH Show Table 5-20-2017**

by Matt Riesz

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Grower</u>	<u>How long Owned</u>	<u>Years Grown</u>
Phal. Art Hall 'Hackneau'	Jeff Rundell	8 yrs	
Iwanagaara Apple Blossom	Jeff Rundell	5 yrs	
Encyclia hanburyi x megalantha	Jeff Rundell	10 yrs	
Lc. Princess Road	Jeff Rundell	5 yrs	
Den. Gatton Sunray	Keith Adrian	3 yrs	
Encyclia profusa x floribunda x tampensis	Matt Riesz	8 yrs	17
Maxillaria tenuifolia	Matt Riesz	13 yrs	17
Blc. Seto Rainbow 'Fantasy'	Matt Riesz	6 yrs	17
Ascocentrum ampullaceum 'Orange'	Keith Adrian	5 yts	17
Angraecum mahavavense	Kara Warnock	2 yrs	10
Vanda Robert's Delight 'Ink Star'	Matt Riesz	2 yrs	17
Oncidium sphaecelatum	Connie Chase	7 mos	
Encyclia tampensis x randii (E. Tampa Grand)	Matt Riesz	1 yr	17
Lc. Canhamiana 'Cobalt' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz	1 yr	17
Oncidium Speckled Spider 'Wisp'	J. Parker	4 yrs	20
Laelia purpurata	Kara Warnock	6 yrs	



**LIBRARIAN**

**Celeste Ogden**

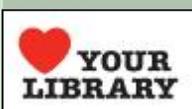
Why not visit our extensive book collection?

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



***J. Parker with Onc. Speckled Spire 'Wisp'***



**Membership Notes**

**By Linda Condon**

The May meeting of the Orchid Lovers Club, held at the First United Methodist Church in Spring Hill was well attended, even with the irregular meeting time and place. There were 56 members signing in, and 16 guests, one of whom joined and became a full fledged member right then and there! She is a long time friend of our Steve Mattana, and knew Jim and Trudy Duerstock as far back as the inception of the club. Please let's all welcome her:

Linda Moore  
8342 Kenway St  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
352-584-0868 C  
[llmoore1236@gmail.com](mailto:llmoore1236@gmail.com)

We all enjoyed the brief history of the 25 years of our club, with a great presentation by Ken and Delia Dunn, and we also all enjoyed the celebratory cake(s) and ice cream as well. Everything that day seemed special to me-did you feel that too? The speaker was dynamic, the show plants were gorgeous, and all the people who came, whether members or guests, were gorgeous too...friendly and helpful and full of positive energy!! Let's keep that momentum building all year long! Bring that enthusiasm with you to the next meeting, back to the VFW on County Line Rd at 1 o'clock on June 17th. Don't forget-for each guest you bring, you will receive extra raffle tickets.

**Linda Condon, Membership Co-ordinator**

A *peloric orchid* is one that has a genetic mutation that causes the petals to mimic the shape of the lip. One defining characteristic of orchids is that they are bilaterally symmetric (also known as zygomorphic), meaning that if you draw a vertical line down the center, it will look the same on either side of the line. Peloric orchids actually begin to look more star-shaped or radially symmetric (also known as actinomorphic), meaning that you can draw a line along any plane of the flower and each segment will look about the same. Peloric orchids don't tend to be perfectly radially symmetric like daisies or lilies, but they are much more so than orchids without the mutation.

Here is an example of one:

This is Linda Condon's *Phalaenopsis* that she had at the show and nobody was able to identify it's strange shape. And now we know! Thank you, Linda.



Orchids Displayed by Members at the May 20th Meeting



Angraecum mahavavense



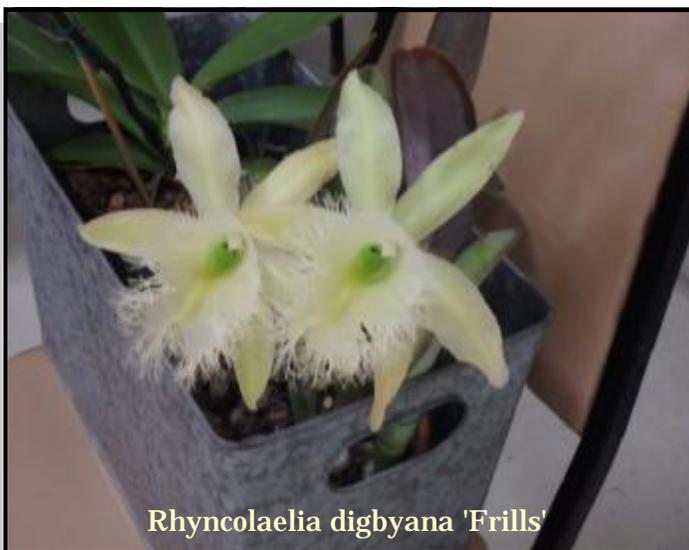
Bc. Seto Rainbow 'Fantasy'



Phal. hybrid - pink.



Den.. Gatton Sunray



Rhyncolaelia digbyana 'Frills'



Encyclia hanburyi x megalantha



**A View of Redland by: Wendy Paracka,  
Orchid Lovers Club and  
Dawn Wien, Volusia Cty. Orchid Society**



In the orchid community, the annual Redland International Orchid Festival is renowned as being one of the largest orchid shows in the nation. Held mid-May each year by the East Everglades Orchid Society, this 21st annual event

was our first time attending. Here is our experience as newbies, what we learned along the way, and some tips and tricks for your trek south next year!



The Redland International Orchid Festival, or just simply "Redland" as it's often referred to, is held at Fruit & Spice Park in Homestead, FL. This 37-acre venue boasts beautiful botanical gardens, waterfalls, fountains, and over 500 varieties of fruit, vegetables, spices, and herbs. The scenery alone is enough to take your breath away! Then you turn around and see...ORCHIDS! Lots and lots of orchids! Hundreds of orchids grace the entrances of each grower's tent and fill the interiors with those sweet fragrances we dream about. In fact, this year was the largest ever with over 65 vendors! From artists selling baskets, jewelry,

and windchimes to local growers from Apopka, Tampa, Sarasota and DeLand, to international growers from China, Thailand, Germany, Venezuela, and Peru (just to name a few) - the sheer variety of people all brought together for the love of orchids was exhilarating!

Redland runs for four days and this year it coincided with the American Orchid Society's (AOS) annual members' meetings. Many local societies rent buses and take a daylong trip to the festival. We chose to stay in a hotel in Florida City, located about 7 miles from the park. Our first day to attend Redland was on the second open day of the show. There were a few attendees who felt the best orchids were at the preview event hosted by AOS the evening prior to the actual Redland opening. We'll take that into consideration for the next show, but there was an abundance of orchids available with no evidence that the plants were picked over. Walking down the first pathway, the booths were loaded with flowering, fragrant Cattleyas from Hawaii and California. The next



booth was displaying a wall of full blooming, stunning Vandas. The color took your breath away and everyone stopped to take pictures. From there the pathways split and opened up into a maze of tents and orchids. Along the way there

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were a few familiar faces; growers from nurseries we have frequented and some that have come and spoken at the orchid clubs. It's always fun to chat with them and find out their opinions of the show. The aisles were crowded with people carrying armloads of orchids and pulling carts that were overflowing. I have to admit, we were both selective buyers searching and waiting for those special orchids we had been pining for. Our favorite find was the *Phragmipedium kovachii* x *schlimii*. The flower has the deep purple coloration of the original *Phrag. kovachii* in a slightly smaller, more compact bloom. Now the challenge is to keep it growing and happy. Along the way, we also found several *Cattleyas* that we had been looking for and some that we didn't know we needed!

Along with purchasing orchids, there was the opportunity to attend educational lectures covering a wide variety of topics with expert speakers and demonstrations, all included in the cost of admission! From *Cattleya* growing to African orchids to pests and diseases, there were informative topics throughout each day. Another highlight was the



award tent full of blue ribbon orchids. The vari-

ety and size of the plants were amazing. One *Cattleya* entry was so large it had outgrown its original pot and the grower had set empty pots around it that had been overtaken by the plant and was now one large presentation.

In addition to the festival, we also participated in the AOS activities with the fund raising auction and the Gala event. They added extra spice to our time in Homestead. On Sunday, the last day of Redland, we couldn't resist one more visit. With an early start, we found vendors that were already marking down the price of the orchids and preparing to pack up for the journey home. There had been several orchids we would have liked to purchase, but they were too pricey. That morning we were able to snatch up several of those.

Driving home we reflected on the trip and came up with a few "must do's": If you're planning a trip, staying local and enjoying the events is worth the extra time and money. Make two lists – one of plants you definitely want and a second of ones that you want but could live without. When you see something on the first list, buy it immediately! Make sure you attend on Sunday for those extra savings. A lot of booths have been picked over and you need to keep in mind that the plants have been out in the Florida heat all weekend, but with a little TLC the bargain prices can compensate for this. Bring an electronic device with Internet connection to verify that the tags/pictures on plants match what you are being sold and to ensure the plants will work for your growing conditions. Take a cart to carry the plants as well as a blanket or cover to protect them from the sun. There is an air-conditioned plant sitting booth, for a nominal fee, if you absolutely need it. Remember sunscreen, a hat, bug

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repellant and a cooler of water for yourself. Above all else, have fun and see you next year!

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### More Pictures From Redland



*Grammatophyllum measuresianum*



*Epilaeliocattleya Golden Sunburst*



*Phragmipedium kovachii x schlimii*

Measuring the width of her Phrag.

w

How about viewing more Redland pictures? Pictures are the next best thing to being there in person. Just click here: [<More Redland Pictures by Wendy Paracka>](#)



## SPEAKER SEGMENT

By Kara Warnock

Our speaker for May was Larry Desiano, a friend of club member Matt Riesz and fellow former member of the Deep Cut Orchid Society in New Jersey. Larry is another northeasterner turned Floridian who now resides in Sarasota, Florida. He has been growing orchids for over 30 years, and as he likes to put it, favors three groups of orchids: the Paphiopedilums, the Cattleyas, and all the others. He has an eclectic collection of orchids and enjoys finding weird, showy orchids that have some sort of “wow factor”. Today he gave a talk on Cyripedioideae otherwise known as the lady’s slipper subfamily. The Cyripedioideae is comprised of the following genera: Cypripedium, Mexipedium, Selenipedium, Phragmipedium, and Paphiopedilum.

Cypripedium is a genus of 58 species of orchids and one of the five genera that comprise the subfamily of the lady’s slipper orchids. They can be found throughout North America, Central American, and Asia. They are considered to be true terrestrial orchids growing as a short rhizome in the soil amongst leaf litter and mulch. One example from this subfamily is Cypripedium acaule, or the pink lady’s slipper, which is a species that ranges from the Arctic and Canada to the southeastern United States. This species is often found in dry woodlands among a blanket of fallen pine needles, which serve as a natural mulch and herbicide, controlling the population of weeds surrounding the plant. Due to the fact that these species need to experience a hard freeze during winter, and are simply not found in our area, we did not spend a lot of time discussing this subfamily.

Mexipedium is another subfamily of Cyripedioideae that consists of a single species, Mexipedium xerophyticum. This plant is only known to occur in a single location in Oaxaca, Mexico growing as a lithophyte on cliffs at elevations of 1,050 feet. This diminutive plant has flowers the size of a dime that are a beautiful crystalline white with diffuse pink markings. We still do not know a lot about this orchid and it has not been an easy plant to attempt to cultivate in order to study. Selenipedium is another small subfamily of Cyripedioideae comprised of six species that are native to Central and South America. These species are rarely cultivated due to their difficult nature to grow. These orchids have a stem that is reed-like in appearance and can reach heights of up to three meters. Larry likes to refer to these orchids as the “toilet bowl” flowers because of the shape of their pouch.

Phragmipediums (Phrags) are another subfamily of the lady’s slippers. This genus is comprised of about 20 species of orchids that are native to South America. Phrags prefer wet conditions with lots of sunlight and cooler nights during the winter, tolerating temperatures close to freezing. There are two types of Phrags classified as the long-petaled and short-petaled. The long-petaled, as the name suggest, have flowers with long, spiraled petals that extend below the pouch. The petals will continue to extend downward until they encounter a surface; therefore, most growers will tip the plants over the edge of the growing bench so that the petals can lengthen as far as possible. The long-petals are often multifloral and will have several flowers present on a branch around the same time. Phragmipedium caudatum is an example of a typical large, long-petaled Phrag with

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sepals and petals that are white with green stripes and a light yellow pouch. Although most of the species from this subfamily are large and not suitable as windowsill plants, *Phragmipedium pearcei* is considered a miniature with a mature plant able to be confined to a small 8 oz. container. Since the majority of the species in this genus are plants with predominantly green and white flowers, hybridizers have been using *Phragmipedium sendenii* and *Phragmipedium Eric Young* (*Phrag. besseae* x *Phrag. longifolium*) to introduce red colored flowers into this subfamily. The short-petaled type Phrags are considered sequential bloomers, which means that as the first flower begins to fade the second flower is getting ready to open up. Probably the most well-known species from this group is *Phragmipedium besseae*. First discovered in 1981 in Ecuador, this species has a 2½" flower that is a brilliant reddish-orange color with a touch of yellow on the pouch. It is due to the exceptional color of this plant's flower that this species has been so extensively used in hybridization. *Phragmipedium Hanne Popow* is a charming miniature hybrid with overall pink colored flowers made by crossing *Phrag. besseae* with *Phrag. schlimii*. Relatively new to science is *Phragmipedium kovachii*, which was recently discovered in 2002 within the cloud forests of Peru. This species has spectacular, large flowers that are nearly 8" wide in varying shades of purple and fuchsia. This species has a rather scandalous history as to how it was introduced to science. We do not have time to dwell on that history in this article, but the information can easily be sourced for online.

The final subfamily to the lady's slipper orchids is the Paphiopedilums (Paphs), which is further subdivided into four subgenera: *Brachypetalum*/*Parvisepalum*, *Cochlopetalum*, *Polyantha*, and

*Paphiopedilum*. The first subgenus the *Brachypetalums* and *Parvisepalums* are predominantly cool growers and plants can be distinguished by their mottled leaves with a dark underside to the leaf. *Brachypetalums* typically have rounded flowers with darker colored spotting displayed against a lighter floral background. These orchids will have one or two (in a well grown plant) flowers on a short inflorescence that often leans forward hanging over the edge of the pot. Some examples from this subgenus include *Paph. bellatulum*, *Paph. concolor*, *Paph. godefroyae* and *Paph. niveum*. The *Parvisepalums* generally have brilliantly colored flowers with inflated pouches occurring on tall, upright spikes. *Paphiopedilum armeniacum* created quite a stir when it was discovered in 1979 in China due to its large, round, clear yellow colored flowers. Although the majority of the lady's slipper flowers are not fragrant, several of the species within this subgenus are scented; *Paph. delenatii* smells of roses, *Paph. micranthum* smells of coconut, and *Paph. malipoense* smells of raspberries.

The *Cochlopetalums*, or sequential bloomers, prefer medium light levels with saturated, monsoon-like conditions during summer and drier periods during the winter. Sequential bloomers will produce one flower after another upon the same spike over a long period of time (6 months or more). However, as the plant continues to produce flowers the overall size of the flower will get progressively smaller, with the first few flowers at the start of the blooming period typically being the largest. Examples from this subgenus include *Paph. primulinum*, *Paph. chamberlainianum*, *Paph. glaucophyllum*, and *Paph. victoria-regina*. The subgenus *Polyantha*, or the multiflorals, are large, majestic plants – reaching heights of up to 2 feet and having spikes containing 5-7 flowers. They are lithophytes often found growing in full sun and their culture is very

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similar to *Cattleya* conditions. Give them brighter light, pot using a larger size bark, and let them dry out a little more between waterings. Some well noted examples from the multifloral subgenus are *Paph. lowii*, *Paph. philippinense*, *Paph. rothschildianum* (aka the "King of Paphs"), and *Paph. sanderianum*.

Finally we have the *Paphiopedilum* subgenus of the *Paphiopedilums*. This subgenus tends to consist of cooler growing plants that are distinguished by their thinner, non-mottled leaves. These orchids are generally smaller sized, clumping plants with shorter stems displaying 1-2 long lasting flowers (weeks-months). Noted examples from this group include *Paph. henryanum*, *Paph. charlesworthii*, *Paph. hirsutissimum*, and *Paph. fairrieanum*. *Paph. villosum* and *Paph. spicerianum* are two species from this subgenus that can reach specimen size quickly if they are given the right conditions.

The general culture for Paphs and Phrags is to keep the plants consistently wet (Phrags like even more water than Paphs), providing more water during the summer months when they are accustomed to receiving deluges from monsoons in their native habitats. Larry grows his Phrags in tall pots placed in pans of water in order to provide a constant source of water for the plants. He places Styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot so that the plants are not directly sitting in the water yet they are able to grow their roots towards the water if desired. He also drills holes into the side of the pot just above the water line to allow for air movement around the roots. Due to the constant moisture leading to a breakdown of the potting medium it is essential to repot plants every year (preferably during the cool season). The multiflorals are the exception to this rule as they only require repotting every other year. They grow throughout the year with very little periods of rest so make sure to feed

them throughout the year (less fertilizer during the winter months). Larry's standard potting mix for Paphs and Phrags is a mixture of fine bark (large for multiflorals), perlite, charcoal, and chopped sphagnum moss. He adds granulated lime (used for lawns) as a top dressing to his pots twice a year as a supplement for his plants. When potting you should strive to pot the plants as deep as possible so that the plant is covered up to its ears with bark – this ensures consistent moisture to the plant. The lady's slipper plants cannot be cloned and it takes several years for plants to grow from seed to a plant that is able to be sold, which drives up the price of the plant. Paphs take 3-9 years, multiflorals take 7-9 years, and the Maudiae type are 3-4 years. If you are unsure about growing Paphs consider a Maudiae type Paph as a beginner plant; they are the least expensive and easiest to grow out of the lady's slipper family. They are distinguished by their supple, mottled leaves with a light color to the underside of the leaf, and their flowers are a variety of white, green, and burgundy or wine colors.

Paph. (Hsinying Vinyweb x Magic Leopard)



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an example of Maudiae type *Paphiopedilum*  
which are the same type Steve Mattana  
brought in for us to buy.