



Volume 25 Issue 5
May 2017

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THE KEIKI



Our May meeting will be held at the First Methodist Church
9344 Spring Hill Drive (NOT AT THE VFW). ALSO THE MEETING
WILL START AT NOON (NOT AT 1 pm.)

It's our 25th anniversary meeting so there will be a small celebration.

Our speaker will be Larry Desiano (a friend of Matt Reitz) who will
talk about those cantankerous Paphiopedilums

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President & Past President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Donna Fazekas
<u>Treasurer</u>	Helen Battistrada
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Pat Dupke
<u>Assistant Executive Secretary</u> (temporary appointed position)	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>Nominating Committee Chair</u> (Members: Mary Lou Mattana & Marita Reisz)	Delia Dunn
<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> (Website set up by Ken Dunn)	Bob East

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

by

Laurie Ciannamea

Refreshments:

Tom Govin
Pat Baig
Janet Genova
Audrey Shepard
Pat Yacco



Beverages:

Lori Cleaver
Arlene & Arty Appelbaum

Additional beverages, especially bottled water, are welcome.



**Treasurer's Report
By Helen Battistrada**

Balance 3/18/2017:	\$8,508.53
Total Receipts	\$1,914.00
Disbursements:	<u>\$1,231.72</u>
Balance: 4/15/2017	\$9,190.81

Monthly Orchid Quiz

The world's smallest known orchid—just over 2 millimeters (0.08 inch) across and nearly see-through—has been discovered nestled in the roots of another flower in what country.

- _____ Brazil
- _____ Hawaii
- _____ Ecuador
- _____ Thailand

Look for the answer on page 4

“Being happy doesn’t mean that everything is perfect...



...It means that you’ve decided to look beyond the imperfections.”

- Unknown

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

And then click on: Alphabetical Listing Library Books



President’s Message

By Jeff Rundell

What happened to spring? Things were so nice and cool but currently it feels like my greenhouse would be better suited as a pizza oven. Please, make it rain (I'll probably regret saying that).

This month's meeting is really special in a number of ways. 1. It will be at the Methodist church on Spring Hill drive starting at noon. 2. It's our 25th anniversary celebration with cake, ice cream and a special retrospective about the club put together by the Dunn's. 3. We have a new speaker, Larry Desiano who will talk about those cantankerous slipper orchids. 4. We will have a supply of slippers (Paphiopedilum orchids) from Hawaii for sale that match our speaker's subject. Bring your show table plants and a friend for 3 free raffle tickets.

Paph orchids and their fans have always been something of an enigma to me. I found out early in my orchid life that they were a very different group of plants for a different type orchid lover. You may recall my description of an encounter with a breeder up north who insisted on interrogating me about paphs while he drank beer and blew cigarette smoke in my face before he opened his locked greenhouse and allowed me to browse. He is not the only secretive paph grower I have met largely due to the fact that these plants are almost exclusively produced through seeds. Meristemming paphs is difficult and has met with very limited success. The appeal of their long lasting unique blossoms makes the challenge of growing them well worth it.

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This month's Orchid Digest contains a summary of the Paph Guild meeting in Santa Barbara which focused most of the attention on a bunch of growers on the big island of Hawaii (including Graham Wood the fellow supplying our plants). My two favorites P. Spicerianum and P. Sukhakulii have seen dramatic improvements by these growers. I know we have some paph growers amongst us and have visited one of our member's greenhouse (initials JS) who has one you could hardly put your arms around. Finally, my confession that I've killed my share of paphs but that won't prevent me from trying more. See you at the meeting.



25TH ANNIVERSITY

(From Historic Records)

'Jim and Trudy Duerstock moved from Tampa to Spring Hill three years ago and started a plant business called Trifles. Over a period of several months they solicited their customers to determine if there was sufficient interest to form an orchid club. On May 7, 1992 they sent out the following post card:':

The first meeting will be Saturday May 16th at 2:00 p.m. at Trifles Plant Shop, 11045 Spring Hill Drive.

Make plans to attend, and help get your club off to a good start'



25th ANNIVERSITY

(From Historic Records)

At the second meeting other officers elected by the membership were: Pat Dupke, Vice President John Merkens, Secretary and Kernall Wood, Treasurer.

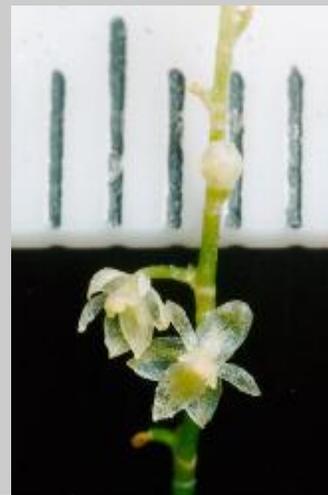
Goals of The Club.

Our goals for the club were established. Our aim was to give orchid lovers an opportunity to share orchid culture and care experience, while educating and entertaining in a social and practical way. The prime object always being to acquaint our members with diversity of orchid species and encourage the acquisition of rare and endangered varieties for preservation and enjoyment of future generations.

Answer to The Monthly Orchid Quiz

The world's smallest known orchid (pictured)—just over 2 millimeters (0.08 inch) across and nearly see-through—has been discovered nestled in the roots of another flower in [Ecuador](#)...

So the answer is Ecuador



25th Anniversary of The Orchid Lover's Club of Spring Hill



Our club was started May 16, 1962. The couple that actually started the club was Jim and Trudy Duerstock. The early club meetings were in fact held at their store, The Trifles Plant Shop.

After 5 meetings the club meetings were moved as more space was needed.

In addition to starting the Club, Jim and Trudy were very active in the club for many years. Jim served as president several different times for a total of 8 years. We were saddened to learn of the Duerstocks recent passing, Jim in December and Trudy just last month. Without their efforts an Orchid club may never have existed in this area.

We didn't wait but a few months, after our beginning, for our first Orchid Show which was held at the Springstead High School in October 1992. Members brought their plants for the public to enjoy. Our first AOS Judged Show was in 1996, four years later, and the AOS shows were continued until 2007. Then, because of a lack of volunteers we went back to a standard show. The Club won a number of ribbons and awards for their exhibits during the time of the various AOS shows.

Our first member's picnic was held at Crews Lake Park in 1998 and has continued each year since,



however, sometimes at different locations. In 2011 and 2012 we voted to have an indoor picnic at our regular meeting place, The Partners Club.

We have had a few picnics at member's homes.

In October of 1998 we made our first Club Tour and have continued most years since. Our first tour in 1998 was to the Orlando area with a visit to A World of Orchids and Tom Ritter Orchids. Our longest trips have been to The Redlands International Orchid Show in Homestead, FL

Christmas Luncheons or Parties have always been well attended. In 1996 thru 2003 we held pot luck luncheons at the Enrichment Center. After that we held one party at the Fireside Inn in Brooksville (It has since burned down and not rebuilt. Other luncheons were at Bayport Inn, Boston Cooker, The Wellington Club and Buffet City. For many years members were encouraged to bring flowers from their blooming plants to the Christmas Party and a



Christmas wreath was built before the meeting started for the enjoyment of those who attended. The wreath was a popular item to include in individual and club pictures for the Christmas season. The wreaths were later donated to local hospitals.

Our best method of accumulation of funds for the treasury has been our annual Orchid Auction. We are not sure what year the Auction was started but it has been very successful in raising money to cover our various expenses.

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This is not the first time we have celebrated an anniversary. In 2002 we had a special cake made to signify our 10th year of existence and again in 2012 another special cake and celebration was held to celebrate our 20th year as an Orchid Club. And again, this month, May 20th, 2017 we will again have a special cake and punch for our refreshment break. You'll notice our parties are getting closer together!

Our first president was Ginny Thien and as far as current members, history says we currently have one Charter Member who started with the club, Pat Dupke.

Past Presidents who are still active in our Club are Judy Smith, Al Fiore, Geary Harris and Jeff Rundell. Many thanks go to these people as well as the many hard workers who are no longer with us, and our current members who have been with us for so long and our recently new members, all of whom have added so much to our Club!

“Happy 25th Anniversary”



Speaker Segment

By Kara Warnock

Our speaker for this month was Smiley Promsurin of Smiley's Orchids out of Clermont, Florida.

Smiley first began growing orchids as a child in her homeland of Thailand at just 6 years of age. She came to live in the United States when she was in her mid-twenties. She moved in with her aunt and uncle who lived in Oklahoma. The family later moved to Orlando because her uncle had accepted a new position there. Once in Orlando Smiley took on two jobs; she worked in a Morrison's cafeteria during the day and a McDonald's restaurant at night. Her work day ended at nearly 11:30 pm each night, which was after the city buses had finished running for the day. Without a car of her own and not wanting to wake her aunt up to come and get her, she found herself walking home most nights along busy Kirkman Road. There were times while walking home late at night that she became discouraged and wondered if she would ever be able to achieve the life she envisioned for herself in America. Then one night while walking home from work she spotted a tiny weed with a beautiful yellow flower growing amongst a crack in the asphalt along one of the overpass walkways. The next week she walked by that same weed and noticed that the weed was not only still there but now it had several more yellow flowers that were visible. There was something about this little weed struggling to survive in a harsh environment with nobody to take care of it, yet wanting to persist and show its beauty to the world that really resonated with Smiley.

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She likes to say that it is the 'weed in her heart' that has allowed her to keep going and pursue the dreams she had for herself. Soon after another uncle of hers helped her to buy a car, and now able to drive she accepted a position working at Disney. Fast forward to today and she still works for Disney (this year will be her 28th) and also owns her own orchid nursery, where she is able to have her orchids and share their beauty with others. At her nursery Smiley prefers to specialize in species of orchids that are extremely scented, and today she spoke regarding some of the species of *Aerides* and *Rhynchostylis* orchids that they grow at their nursery.

As a young child one of her first memories of blooming orchids is of *Aerides houlletiana*, a charming species with yellowish-cream petals and a purple and white lip. This species typically blooms from late spring into early summer and the flowers are sweetly scented. For Smiley each time this plant comes in bloom the scent evokes memories of her childhood and blooming this plant for the first time with her family.



This orchid also has an alba color variant, however, plants that are of the 'true white' coloration are quite expensive and can fetch up to \$200 per plant. Smiley mentioned that she would love to be able to import the true white version of *Aerides houlletiana* but she simply cannot afford the cost of the plant. Instead she has had to settle for the still beautiful, but slightly yellowish-white flower colored alba version. *Aerides flabellata* is a very beautiful plant with reddish-copper colored flowers with a purple and white mottled lip. This plant blooms from winter into spring. The flowers are highly scented but the scent is a slightly un-

pleasant odor. The very first time that Smiley bloomed this orchid she had taken the plant with her in the car and began to notice an unusual smell inside her vehicle. Upon smelling this unusual odor she preceded to ask her son (who was a little boy at the time) if he had peed his pants. She soon realized that her son had not wet his pants rather the blooming orchid was the source of the odor, which smelled of dried pee. This species can be somewhat difficult to find in cultivation since a lot of people do not grow them because of the stinky smell associated with their flowers.

Aerides crassifolia, also known as the "King of *Aerides*", is a sweetly scented orchid that produces long spikes of pink and white colored flowers during spring and summer. The first plants of *Aerides crassifolia* that Smiley purchased came from a grower in Thailand that had been growing the plants for 20 years and had been unable to



Our April 15 Speaker, Smiley Promsurin

bloom them. Thinking that perhaps this orchid was difficult to bloom, she decided to import a total of 50 plants. Approximately 3 months later at

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Smiley also grows several species of *Rhynchostylis* orchids at her nursery. *Rhynchostylis coelestis* is a beautifully scented species with hyacinth-like flowers that are available in both a blue and pink flower coloration. This species can bloom from summer into fall. This species of orchid is commonly used in crosses; *Rhynchorides* 'Bangkok Sunset' is a well-known cross that is made using (*Rhynchostylis coelestis* x *Aerides flabellata*) x *Aerides houlettiana*. 'Bangkok Sunset' plants produce a vividly colored flower that is magnificently scented, and the plant can bloom up to four times a year.

Rhynchostylis retusa is a species with densely arranged pink-spotted flowers on a pendant inflorescence that blooms each year from winter into early spring. This species is found in both India and Thailand, however, the plants from India can be very difficult to import. The reason being that it can take several months to collect the plants from their habitat high within the Indian mountains and transport them down from these locations using cattle. Smiley mentioned that the last time she ordered plants of this species from India that her order was placed in April and it took until December for her to receive the plants. Due to the lengthy travel period the plants arrived to her in poor condition and she had to nurse them back to health. Plants of *Rhynchostylis retusa* can vary from one another depending upon their country of origin. Plants originally from Thailand will have an inflorescence that is shorter in length, averaging 12-20", while the inflorescence from plants originating from In-

dia can reach lengths of 15-27". Also, plants from India like to be grown a little on the cooler side and generally require some cooler temperatures in order to initiate their flower spikes.

Rhynchostylis gigantea is another orchid species that holds a special place in Smiley's heart. This is the second orchid species that she learned how to grow and bloom successfully as a child. At just 11 years of age she had a blooming plant of this species with a total of 11 spikes. This species is tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions and typically blooms throughout the winter months. The typical flower color for *Rhynchostylis gigantea* is a pink and white spotted flower (spotted form), which can appear similar to *Rhynchostylis retusa*, however the overall length of the inflorescence is shorter. There are several flower color forms for *Rhynchostylis gigantea*. Of them the white color form tends to be the fastest growing. The orange color form tends to prefer warmer growing conditions and is intermediate in its growth, and the red color form is the slowest growing of them all



Smiley's Orchids

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In addition to the various orchids that they grow at their nursery Smiley also grows several types of Asian herbs

In addition to the various orchids that they grow at their nursery they also grow several types of Asian herbs that are used for natural remedies. One such herb, Cholesterol Spinach (*Gynura procumbens*), that they grow is known to help lower blood pressure and blood sugar. To help accomplish this it is best to eat the leaves fresh on an empty stomach and only to consume a small amount of leaves at a time, no more than the quantity that can fit in your hand. Eating more than your body requires can drastically lower your blood pressure, as PK (her husband) can attest to after eating an entire tray of the Cholesterol Spinach one time left him feeling weak and dizzy as a result. Smiley credits another herb known as Angel Grass (*Murdannia loriformis*) with transforming her own health in regards to her lifelong struggle with allergies.

This herb is said to help provide support for a strong immune system, aid in digestive problems, and can be beneficial towards those undergoing chemotherapy. Another

helpful herb *Phyllanthus niruri* also known as the Stone Breaker is said to help with kidney stones, gall stones, and hepatic lipidosis. Finally, there is a “King of the Herb” plant that they grow which is native to Thailand and Southeast Asia. This plant is a very slow grower but once mature the leaves are ground and the juice from the leaves is consumed for medicinal purposes. This herb is said to help out with a number of ailments from thyroid conditions to pain.



Raffle Tickets
1 Ticket \$1, 3 Tickets \$2, 10 Tickets \$5



Show Table Judges, Matt Riesz, Delia Dunn, Jeff Rundell



The Club's New Business Card



Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2017

Jeff Rundell opened the meeting with several surprise questions for members, chosen at random: a fun time.

the main annual event. Some members might remember when we had to pass the hat to cover the show, so it's great to know we can handle it so well. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the show. We spend a lot of money on advertising, around \$1300 this year, and out show attendance was steady at a bit over 400.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Several visitors were then introduced and heartily welcomed. Jeff mentioned a new rule, effective at the May meeting: If you are a member and you bring a visitor, then you get three free raffle tickets. There were 8 raffle plants today, so the free tickets are a great deal.

Important announcement: Our next meeting will NOT be at the VFW, but will instead be held at the First United Methodist Church, 9344 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34608. Because we need to be out of the church by 3PM, the meeting will begin early, at NOON on May 20th. This is a very special meeting, as it marks the 25th anniversary of our club. We'll have special refreshments to mark the occasion, club history displays and discussion, and a great speaker. Larry Desiano, past president of the Deep Cut Orchid Society in NJ, will talk about Paphiopedilums (slipper orchids). We'll have some special paphiopedilum plants available for sale, arranged by Steve Mattana. A signup sheet was passed around for these plants, which are from an orchid grower in Lihue, Hawaii. Members may also bring their own plants for sale at the meeting.

Treasurer's report – for two months, since our March meeting was the annual show.

Balance in February:	\$9887.23
Receipts (2 months):	\$2613.00
Show:	\$1995.00
Dues:	\$388.00
Raffle:	\$186.00
Name badges	\$44.00
Expenses:	\$3309.42
Program:	\$150.00
Raffle plants:	\$50.00
Storage (2 mos):	\$80.00
Stamps:	\$9.80
Show expenses:	\$2805.35
Name Pins:	\$40.47
Annual Web charge:	\$39.95
Bank charges:	\$6.00
Picnic reservation:	\$45.00
Shed renovation:	\$82.85
Closing Balance:	\$9190.81

Marita Riesz gave a summary of the show, which she ably organized. Jeff noted that we cannot thank her enough for the great work she did. She thanked the many people who helped with the details of the show, including (but not limited to) Steve and Mary Lou Mattana for pitching in whenever and wherever they were needed, Bobby LeMay for finding the places to put our signs, Wen and Celeste Ogden for building all those nifty crates, Joe Parker for putting all the feet together for the display racks, Joe DiCristofalo for painting that great orchid

We're doing very well, financially, and our show is

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picture for people to take photos in, Judy and Yati for the kitchen, Matt Riesz for organizing the judging, Julie Smolka for handling all our publicity, Gary Gethen and Matt Riesz for speaking at the show, and all of the other volunteers that showed up to setup and take down the show, handle the wonderfully successful raffles, etc. You're all wonderful and we hope you had a great time. She called our attention to a side table, where Thank You cards were arranged for everyone who helped. Also, it's not too soon to think about next year's show. If you have ideas or suggestions or would like to help please contact Marita or Jeff. A huge round of applause was given for Marita.

Marita brought in a bunch of items from our storage unit that we do not need or use anymore. Mary Lou and Marita went through the entire storage unit, cleaned it out, reorganized it and set aside these items. They were arranged on a table for anyone to take.

Linda gave a report on the membership. Four new members were introduced.

It was great to see our long-time member, Pat Dupke, back at the meeting after some health challenges. She's very dear to all of us. Welcome, Pat!

On a sad note, our librarian, Tom Govin's wife is very ill and he will need to care for her. Our prayers go out to her and Tom. Celeste Ogden has kindly volunteered to take over from Tom as librarian. If you would like to borrow one of our many fine books, a list is on our website. Just send a message to Celeste and she'll bring it to the next meeting. Thanks, Celeste!

We also need a volunteer to chair the kitchen

committee, which Marita has been doing out of the goodness of her heart. Please contact Jeff or Marita if you can help with this.

It's time for elections, and we got a report from Nominating Committee member, Mary Lou Mattana who submitted the following slate of officers:

- President:** Jeff Rundel
- 1st Vice President:** Geary Harris
- 2nd Vice President:** Steve Mattana
- Secretary:** Pat Baig
- Treasurer:** Helen Battistrada

We'll hold the election next month. Nominations may be made from the floor provided prior consent has been obtained from the nominee.

Marita has revised the new member brochure, which we will have available soon for new members. We are also revising other documents such as the club business cards. Wendy is working on that for us and we should have them soon. Thanks, Wendy and Marita!

We adjourned for refreshments, and the show table plants were awarded and discussed. Then Ms. Smiley, of Smiley's Orchids, gave us a fascinating talk on her orchids and also on her other passion, herbal medicine. She also brought in plenty of beautiful plants for sale.

Finally, the raffle plants were drawn and the meeting was adjourned.

A note about the minutes

The minutes 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

OLCOSH Show Table May 18, 2017

Plant Name	Grower	How long Owned	Years Grow Orchids	Ribbon?
Phal hybrid - purple, white spots	Judy Smith	7 yrs		
C. intermedia	Jeff Rundell	4 yrs		
E. Dave's Delirium (E. tampensis X E. aspera)	Jeff Rundell	4 yrs		
Phal. mannii	Caitlin DiCristofalo	8 mos	9	
Phal. Fortune Buddha	Caitlin DiCristofalo	7 yrs	9	
Phal hybrid	Connie Chase	6 mos		
Phal hybrid - white, maroon spot	Connie Chase	6 mos		
Phal. hybrid - white, lime lip	Connie Chase	6 mos		
Onc. sphaelcelatum	Jeff Rundell	4 yrs		Y
Phal hybrid - white	Judy Smith	7 yrs		
Leptotes bicolor	Keith Adrian	2 yrs	7	
C. Summer Spot 'Carmela'	Keith Adrian	3 yrs	7	
Bc. North Miami 'Suncoast'	Keith Adrian	4 yrs	7	
Lc. Fire Dance X Blc. Carolina Golden D'or	Judy Smith	7 yrs		
C. intermedia var. amethystina	Matt Riesz	5 yrs	17	Y
Jackfowlieara Apple Blossom	Matt Riesz	6 yrs	17	
Clowesia Rebecca's Daughter X Clowesia Grace Dunn	Judy Smith	1 yr		
Phal. cornu cervi	Steve Mattana	6 mos		
Ctt. Marcene Burns (Ctt. Trick or Treat X C. lawrenceana)	Judy Smith	3 yrs		
Phal. Pylo's Sofia	Steve Mattana	6 mos		
E. cordigera	J. Parker	1 yr	20	
Phal. hybrid - white, orange lip	Judy Smith	8 yrs		Y
Den. Yasuko Sugiyama 'Parade' AM/AOS	J. Parker	1 yr	20	Y
Bl. Mary Dodson	Keith Adrian	1 yr	7	
No name - small plant with tiny yellow flowers at end of growths	Judy Smith	8 yrs		
Phal. hybrid - purple/white	Judy Smith	7 yrs		
Den. aggregatum var. jenkinsii	Jeff Rundell	5 yrs		
Phal. Cinderella X Phal. Talsuco Firebird	Connie Chase	6 mos		

By Matt Riesz



Membership Report
By Linda Condon

Forty-seven members signed in at our April meeting, along with five guests. We are delighted to have added the following new members:

Sandie Deconinck

3450 Aspen Ct
Spring Hill, FL 34606
352-398-8051 cell
myma52@aol.com

Robert Fieldhouse

5800 S Oakridge Dr
Homosassa, FL 34448
352-503-3695 h 352-208-6593 cell
skeetshot99@gmail.com

Rae Griffith

2420 Parkview Dr ,
Springfield, IL 62704
phone number! 217-787-1724 h
217-494-1724 cell
raefloral@yahoo.com

Rae is a still a snowbird, staying in Beverly Hills while she's here. Be sure to try her cell

Tony and Sue Plocica

11083 Heathrow Ave
Spring Hill, FL 34609
352-600-8704 h 314-277-1085 cell
skp624@aol.com

At least two of these folks came as a result of being at our show in March! We will be celebrating that success as we roll into our next season of meetings, starting with the May meeting, which will be held at a different time and place! Please come to the First United Methodist Church , 9344 Spring Hill Dr AT NOON, May 20th for the

Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebration of the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill. Come on, you party animals!!! Please remind your friends that we're going to be at the church, and an hour earlier than usual-and write it on your calendars, too! We want to see you there!!

Linda Condon



The faithful helped clean up after our great orchid show.

May in Your Orchids

Based on AOS monthly checklists by Robert Scully and Ned Nash & James Rose, adapted to St. Augustine by local growers. Re-printed by permission of the St. Augustine Orchid Society



General Orchid Growing Tips

Summer is right around the corner. Now is the time to maximize growth and develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones so resist the urge to divide your plants just for the sake of having more plants. Recycle your clay or plastic pots but be sure to sterilize them first along with any wire products. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.

Cattleyas Get a head start on dividing cattleyas by severing the rhizome in whole or in part (at a point where you will have 3 to 5 pseudobulbs per division) with a sterile tool while the plant is still in the original pot. The new growths will emerge weeks later at which point you can finish repotting using a rhizome clip to secure the divisions. Continue feeding cattleyas with a dilute fertilizer solution with each watering and flush with fresh water monthly.

Cymbidiums Finish repotting these elegant orchids if they are bursting out of the pot. If the medium is in good condition (just a year old), you

may be able to move the plant from one container to another with the addition of a small amount of medium without disturbing the roots. Keep the pots moist and syringe the foliage frequently, particularly if you have moved the plant into brighter light.

Paphiopedilums This is the ideal month to complete repotting of your lady's slippers. Prepare a fresh terrestrial mix (say 85% bark, 10% peat and 5% charcoal). Remove dead roots and keep as many growths together as practical. The single flowered types should be in shade though the multiflorals like more light. Keep root zone moisture levels high (though *Brachypetalum* types generally like drier conditions).

Phalaenopsis Repotting plants that have finished flowering is a priority. When you repot, remove the old inflorescence and eliminate all rotten or completely dehydrated roots and cut the roots back to about 2/3 the depth of the new pot. Remove also the dried bottom section of the old crown until you reach fresh tissue. Resume fertilizing when new roots become visible. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.

Vandas Some plants may need more room for root development. If your plant is in a wooden basket, simply drop it into a larger size basket. If your plant has become top heavy and unsightly, cut away the top part of the plant as long as this section has three roots to sustain it and re-basket it being careful to secure it so roots will not be damaged in the wind. Keep the bottom section of the plant in the old basket as it will usually sprout keikis at the base and be well established by the end of the summer.

Beautiful Plants From The April Meeting

