



November  
Volume 25 Issue 11

### CONTENTS

Page 2

Officers/Committees  
Refreshments  
Treasurer's Report  
Christmas Luncheon  
reminder

Page 3

President's Message

Page 4

AOS Webinars  
Librarian

Page 5-6

Member Story

Page 7-8

Picnic Pictures

Page 9-10

Everything Orchids

Page 11

Donated Plant List for  
Auction

# THE KEIKI



# ORCHID PLANT AUCTION

Sponsored by

*The Orchid Lovers of Spring Hill*

**Saturday Nov. 18, 2017**

**Preview at 11:30 Auction begins 12noon**  
**VFW Post (new location, corner of 18940**  
**Drayton & County Line Rd. Spring Hill)**

**Many beautiful hybrid, species orchids**  
**and supplies will be auctioned off.**

**Cash and Checks accepted**

**-no credit cards-**

**Refreshments available**

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

**Our annual Christmas party is 12 Noon on December 9 at Buffet City**

***Please be sure to add your name to the list that Linda  
Condon started at the picnic., if you plan on being  
there.***



[mmimilinda@aol.com](mailto:mmimilinda@aol.com)

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>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Linda Condon & Arlene Appelbaum
<u>Programs</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Publicity</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>Refreshments</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Trips</u>	Sonia Terrelonge & Laurie Ciannamea
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
(Website set up by Ken Dunn)	

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**AUCTION CHAIRPERSON  
MARITA REISZ**

**REFRESHMENT REMINDER**

**By Mary Lou Mattana**

**FOOD:**

Lori Cleaver  
 Pat Baig  
 Marie Tanek  
 Mary Lou Mattana  
 Delia Dunn  
 Bobbie LeMay  
 Lloyd & Rose Anderson



**BEVERAGES**

**We do not need beverages as we have a surplus from the Picnic. If anyone wants juice they should bring it.,**

**Treasurer's Report**

**By Helen Battistrada**



**Beginning Balance**  
**8/9/17 : \$8,609.01**

**Total Receipts \$ 256.00**

**Disbursements: \$ 726.00**

**Ending Balance**

**10/21/17: \$8,139.61**



**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**12:00 NOON**

**BUFFET CITY**

**DECEMBER 9th**





## The President's Message

I'm celebrating Halloween tonight and, since no kids have shown up, guess I'll just have to eat the candy myself. To make things worse it was 37F last night and the vandias were still in the backyard trees! Time to get my winter thought processes in order before the inevitable and depressing frosty night catches me napping.

**What's happening?** *The auction is here: Saturday November 18, noon at the VFW.* Things are coming together nicely, but we still need your help to make our major fundraiser a success. Please bring your donated plants to the VFW by 11AM. There will be donations from at least 6 professional growers. There will be some treasures, including Vandias from Apopka and donations from members like you. There are always surprises so spread the word in any way you can. Our helper list still has some spaces - especially cleanup when it's all over. I really hope to see everyone there.

Our annual Christmas party is December 9 at Buffet City on Cortez. This place has an astonishing variety of food for under \$10. We will have a gift plant raffle and, of course, my revised version of "The Night Before Christmas". Be sure to add your name to the list Linda Condon started at the picnic. We will be collecting toys for the Marine Corp program "TOYS FOR TOTS". I hope to see you there to celebrate the season and have some fun.

Winter rules on the golf course means I get a chance to cheat by improving my lie when no one is looking. In the orchid world, winter rules challenge us to adapt to the possibility of, dare I say it,

a freeze! Recently we had a 37 deg. night here in good ol' Homosassa. Panic struck as my sensitive Vandias and some of their friends were still hanging out in the trees. I didn't get home in time to react and we will see what punishment this crime commands. One of my strategies in these cases is "move it or lose it". Plants, especially those on racks, go into the greenhouse at night and some rotate outside during the day. No question about it, this is a lot of work. I've even thought about some track and wheel system to save my back. Being data driven, I have also put temperature sensors from indoor/outdoor thermometers in various places around the property. Near the pool, building, driveway and under trees = warmer. Front yard, down slope and open areas = colder. The temperature differential can be almost 10 degrees. I use an electric heater in the greenhouse accompanied by an oscillating fan but I'm thinking about more efficient things like thermal storage or passive solar.

I'm interested in YOUR strategies during the cold season. Why not write a few lines to The Keiki and share what works (or doesn't) for you? One more thing. November is also the driest month of the year. Recently, within three days, the dew point went from mid 60s to the 20s! Rainforest to desert in terms of humidity. This is another challenge I'm interested in hearing about. Have a great Thanksgiving!! SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION! *Jeff*

### ORCHID AUCTION

*Saturday  
November 18th  
at VFW Post,  
18940 Drayton  
and County  
Line Road*





AOS has continuing Webinar's on all aspects of orchid culture. The next live Webinar is December 14, 2017 at 8:30 pm.

*Click on the URL below to view various live Webinars coming in the future.*

[www.AOS.org/orchids/webinars.aspx](http://www.AOS.org/orchids/webinars.aspx)

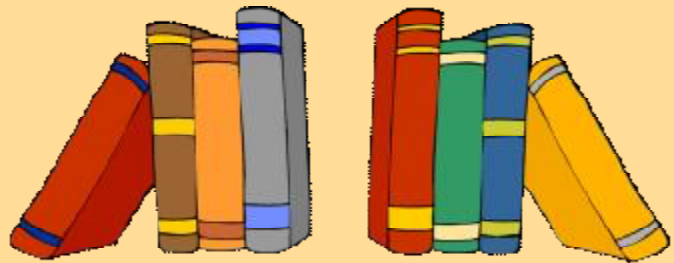
The next Webinar is by Ron McHatton who will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees.

Also listed on the site are recorded Webinars that have been presented in the past. These cover dozens and dozens of programs covering all phases of orchids.

### CHECK IT OUT!

**Kew Gardening Guide**  
"Orchids" by: Joyce Stewart  
Book number 200-001

Orchids have been described as "the royal family" of the plant world. The main body of this book is concerned with the principles of growing and caring for orchids in temperate regions. The author describes over 500 species and hybrids. Included are color illustrations and historical prints.



Keep the book for a month! Click on:

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

And then click on:

[Alphabetical Listing Library Books](#)

See you at the auction.

Take care,

*Celeste Ogden,  
Librarian*



## A PINK AND GREEN

### INHERITANCE

by Delia Dunn

In November 2005 we were in St. Augustine for a week's vacation and before we left we'd rolled our home phone over to our cell phone that we only used when we traveled. While at the resort, toward the end of the week, we got a phone call from an Inverness real estate agent who knew I grew orchids – the word had gotten out in our neighborhood, and one of her listings was a house belonging to an elderly man who also grew orchids. She was calling because the man had died and she told me if I wanted to I could go and get the orchids he had sitting out in his backyard and she was sorry that all the blooming ones were gone! It was frustrating to think all his blooming ones had probably been picked up by people who knew nothing about how to get them to bloom again – if they knew how to grow them they would have taken all the plants. You can imagine my excitement and urgency to get home.

A quick glance told me they were all Cattleya types, all in clay pots, about 12, if I recall, and only one had a tag, but what an excitement to think I had all these new Cattleyas and I was the one who was going to try to bloom them again! We made two trips over there to get them and there were quite a few extra clay pots which I had fun cleaning. I probably should have asked the agent who it was that got the blooming plants as they may have had tags that might have helped with identification, but I felt that she wouldn't have known or remembered. The orchids appeared to be in what looked like soil or maybe some special type of medium I had not heard about unless it

was just badly decayed years old crumbled bark (with no snow mold or bugs—and that would have been a miracle). They appeared very healthy and just neglected, but I didn't repot immediately although that was coming up, because a lot of the plants were growing outside their pots.

I called the real estate agent and asked for a phone number for the man's family and she gave me his son's number in Canada. I called him to ask if he knew how his father grew these plants because they were all outside with a roof over them, similar looking to a carport only it was an orchid port :- ) made only of wood, and quite small, like the size of a shed and open all around. It had a bench all around it covered in pots and plants. He told me his father kept them out all year but if it turned cold he'd put them in the house and I couldn't imagine him taking all those plants inside his small house with the dirty pots and I didn't know how many blooming plants there had been. He didn't know anything other than that; he thanked me for taking them and he felt good that his father's plants would be in the hands of someone who knew what to do with them!! THAT made me feel great - that I knew what to do with them, and I knew I couldn't let the man down and had to somehow keep his father's Cattleyas going. They fit in very well with my other plants (why not!) and I kept the new group together and barely watered them having learned that lesson and not wanting to kill the plants. Due to lack of space, I left them outside on our covered porch all winter except under 40 degrees. They survived the cold winter without a problem.

In May 2006 I got my first single pink and green bloom and what a beauty with *B. digbyana* in the lip and the fragrance. That's why I didn't re-pot. I had to wait to see when they bloomed and chances

of them blooming for me if I repotted was about zero. The next one bloomed a short time later with a greenish tint and double blooms on short stems. I noticed they faded fairly quickly to white with a pink center, not nearly as attractive.

As it turned out there were three other types that could have all been Laelias, one with an H & R award, the only one with a tag, which I ended up giving to the real estate Broker who called me to say he missed out on the orchid pickings and could he come by and get one from me. What would YOU have said? Since it was his real estate agent who did me the favor I could hardly say no. And besides that he was the developer of our subdivision! So that plant went and after checking the internet to see what its flower looked like I know that none of the others were the same as that one. I had to wait for them all to bloom to find that out. They were very pretty but none had the magnetism that these pink and green Cattleyas had for me.

Over the months all the others grew and bloomed and eventually all got re-potted and split and put into clay pots. That was before I learned they may like baskets better. The green and pink are one of the few plants I have that I can't wait to bloom. And I've learned to move them to the shade before the blooms open so that they will keep the more vivid green and pink tints longer.

I am told that the color is due to the cross and the green and the ruffled lip are most likely due to Brassavola digbyana in the background of the hybrid. To allow them to grow green and keep them from fading the recommendation is to remove them to a shaded area before the buds open and to keep them in a shaded area while in bloom. The color lasts so much longer and the blooms also last much longer away from the elements.

5.1.06 This is the first bloom for me and it was grown on the trellis on the patio.



9.1.14 Another one of the plants grown in shade and just opening up. There are two blooms here.

9.24.14 Note the ruffles on the 2nd bud just opening on the left of this flower.



Nearly all blooms after were doubles. The bottom of the lip almost always curls under and I understand that

that is due to the genetics of the plant.

**A good Time Was Had By All  
At The Annual Picnic at Crews Lake on October 21st**



**A good Time Was Had By All  
At The Annual Picnic at Crews Lake on October 21st**





## EVERYTHING ORCHIDS

*Article provided by Matt Riesz*

Here's an article about "Bud Blast" by Susan Jones that appeared in Orchids magazine back in July 2003. It's just as useful today as it was back then.

*(Please note that the AOS does not endorse the use of any specific chemical agents. If you choose to follow recommendations given by a contributor make sure to adhere to all local, state and federal laws in the use of these agents. Take the time to learn how to use them safely and follow manufacturers usage instructions.)*

### When Good Orchid Buds Turn Bad

It can be heartbreaking to watch helplessly as long-awaited orchid buds brown, die and drop instead of becoming those much-anticipated flowers. Bud blast, when buds wither and fall from an otherwise healthy plant, may occur through any of a number of causes. Buds are the most sensitive part of an orchid, and are easily affected by unsuitable conditions in the growing environment. Cattleyas, phalaenopsis and dendrobiums seem particularly susceptible to this problem. The most frequent reasons for this are as follows:

#### WATER

Under- or over watering is a common cause of bud blast. If a plant becomes too dry, it may withdraw moisture from buds as a survival mechanism. Over watering can damage the orchid's root system, with the end result being a lack of water to the plant. As with under watering, when the plant is unable to absorb sufficient quantities of water, it will withdraw water from the buds, bringing about their demise. Budding Cattleyas are particularly sensitive to over watering, which can cause buds to blacken and die while still in their sheath. Water that is allowed to sit on buds or in

bud sheaths provides the perfect environment for fungi and bacterial growth, generating rots that will blast buds. Watering with cold water can shock a plant, causing bud drop.

#### TEMPERATURE

Temperature extremes or rapid temperature changes are often a culprit in bud blast. If a budding orchid receives drafts from a window, an air conditioning or heating vent, or even a rush of air from a hot oven, it may drop buds. Similarly, buds may blast when exposed to temperature fluctuations that occur when taking a plant in from the car or outside during hot or cold weather, bringing plants back into a heated house after a summer outdoors, or temperature extremes caused by running heating or air conditioning for only part of the day.

#### ATMOSPHERE

Orchid buds are sensitive to fumes from paint, natural gas leaks and other chemicals. Once pollinated, flowers generate methane gas, causing them to collapse and saving energy for seed production. Methane or ethylene gas from other sources may also trigger bud or flower collapse. Ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit; gas leaks; inefficient burning of gas stoves or heaters; engine exhaust; cigarette, cigar or pipe smoke; open fires; smog or air pollution can also cause bud blast and age and distort open flowers.

#### LIGHT

If lighting available to its developing buds is inadequate, an orchid won't flower properly. Low lighting can cause buds to abort. Too much light-

(continued on next page)

**EVERYTHING ORCHIDS**

ing may also cause trouble; direct sunlight on developing buds can overheat and desiccate them, leading to bud blast.

**CHEMICAL DAMAGE**

Fertilizer, fungicide or pesticide applied at dosages above a plant's tolerance or in a manner inconsistent with manufacturer's instructions may damage buds, causing them to drop

**HUMIDITY**

Developing buds need high humidity. If their environment is too dry, or the ambient humidity fluctuates a great deal, buds may be adversely affected and drop.

**INSECTS**

Aphids and thrips can cause bud blast. These insects feed on flowers and flower buds, sucking the plant juices. The buds of infested plants fail to develop properly, dropping from the plant or opening to damaged and disfigured flowers. Thrips can be controlled using Diazinon or Malathion. Aphid control often involves not only eliminating the aphids themselves, but also the ants that farm them. Insecticidal sprays and sugar-based ant baits are recommended. For a few aphids, dab with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol. Other means of control include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils (Neem or Sunspray), growth regulators and chitin inhibitors (Enstar II), Pyrethrum-based insecticidal sprays, stronger insecticides (Malathion), and systemic insecticides (Orthene, Shield). Repeat any treatment method twice after the initial application at seven- to 10-day intervals to kill successive generations. Test new controls on a small

population of plants before widespread use. When using insecticides, check labels to be certain the insecticide works against the particular pest and that it is approved for use on orchids. Always use any chemical in strict accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

**GENETICS**

Occasionally, even under perfect cultural conditions an orchid will continually abort buds. There may be a genetic mutation responsible for its inability to produce viable blooms, in which case the plant should be discarded.

*Susan Jones was the assistant editor of Orchids and editor of the Awards Quarterly during the late 1990s and early 2000s.*

**WHY GOOD ORCHID BUDS TURN BAD**

Water

Temperature

Atmosphere

Light

Chemical Damage

Humidity

Insects

Genetics

