



# THE KEIKI



**Coming Soon**



Volume 31  
Issue 12  
December 2023

**Our next meeting will be on Saturday, December 16th for our holiday party**

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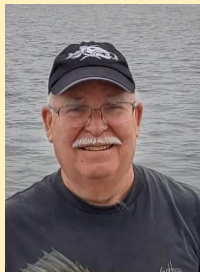
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Thanks to those who  
have contributes to our  
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## President's Message



Happy Holidays, everyone! No matter which of the something like 14 different holidays we celebrate at this time of year, the key word is "celebrate"!

This is also a great time to celebrate our orchids, as the changing season brings some into bloom, some into dormancy and some into spike getting ready for Spring.

As I write this, we're heading into a couple of the coldest days so far this season with temperatures predicted into the 30s in our area. That's just too cold for many of our orchids, and since I don't have a greenhouse I have begun my first "orchid shuffle" of the season. Orchids that need to remain above 60 degrees, such as hard-cane Dendrobiums and some Bulbophyllums and Angraecums have been brought inside for the winter to keep them comfortable until temperatures warm back up in Spring. This includes my Catasetinae, which do not get ANY water until new growth appears in about 3 or 4 months.

There are a few orchids that actually like some cold temperatures and need them to flower well. These include Cymbidiums, Nobile-type (“soft-cane”) Dendrobiums, Den. kingianum, and so on. Those I leave outside unless we’re expected to get a freeze. Everything else comes into my Lanai for a couple days until the temperatures warm back up (we’re expecting 80s this weekend!). So here’s MY regimen, that seems to work OK for me. Note that a dip of 3 hours or less below these ranges does not seem to hurt the plants.

Overnight temps:

>60F Everything stays out

50F – 60F Warm growers come inside the house for the season

45F – 50F Vandas and Phalaenopsis come inside the Lanai until temps warm up

35F – 45F All except cold growers come inside

<32F Even cold growers come inside, or get covered with blankets outside

That 35 to 50 range is what triggers the shuffle. It takes me about a half an hour to move 250 plants. It’s worth the effort but I can’t wait for Spring!

Best wishes to everyone for a joyous holiday season filled with beautiful orchids!

Matt

Wow, Matt! What an honor. So happy to be able to share this with our club

It's with a deep sense of honor that I report an orchid that has been named for me. This is Bulb. Matt Riesz (Meen Sassy Girl x Lion King). Thanks so much to Laura Newton for this super honor!



# EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Cheryl Crilly
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# EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<u>Show Chair</u>	Bob East
<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Susan Kimmel
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<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Trips</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East (Website set up by Ken Dunn)
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

# NCOS speaker schedule through December 2024

*Updated as of 11/26/2023*

**Note:** Dates \*\*\* are different from our normal 3rd Saturday schedule, as the facility is not available on our normal dates those months.

January 20<sup>th</sup> – Florida Sun-coast Orchids (Jim Roberts)  
Orchid Pests and Diseases  
**new venue! Krueger Enrichment Center, 392 Beverly Ct, Spring Hill, FL**

February 17<sup>th</sup> – Miranda Orchids

March 16<sup>th</sup> – Courtney Hackney

April 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> – show

May 18<sup>th</sup> – repotting/  
mounting workshop

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Jim and I

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Rusty Exotics Orchid Nursery - Habenarias

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Auction

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Fred Clarke

October 19<sup>th</sup> – picnic

November 16<sup>th</sup> – <tentative>  
Jim Roberts? Den. anos-mum, etc?

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Holiday party

# Preparing Orchids for Winter

**By Susan Jones**

The onset of shorter days and longer, colder nights heralds winter's arrival. Many factors play into keeping your orchids happy and healthy through this time — finding the right combination of variables can be tricky, especially for beginners. The phrase “proper prior planning” is appropriate here; doing so will help your orchids to reach their greatest potential and increase your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

Generally, temperatures between 50° and 80° F (10° to 27° C) are ideal for orchids; but occasional brief periods of temperatures above 100 F (38 C) or drops even into the 30s (0 C) will not harm most orchids as long as no frost forms on the leaves. Cold hardiness, the measure of the orchid's resistance to or ability to adjust to cold stress, should be considered when adding new orchids for your landscape or collection. The degree of cold hardiness is determined by environmental conditions, the overall health of the plant and its genetic makeup. Some species are always killed by colder temperatures, while others can tolerate short periods of temperatures near freezing.



During the winter, flowering orchids brighten well-lit windowsills. On cold nights, it's a good idea to move plants away from the window or use bubble wrap as insulation between the pane and the plants.

## Cold Injury

Symptoms indicating cold damage usually become visible some days after exposure to critically low temperatures, not during the cold exposure. Cold injury includes damage from temperatures above and below freezing. Chill injury is that caused by low temperatures above freezing, and freeze injury is damage from temperatures at or below freezing. Frost damage takes place when dew freezes after it has condensed on leaf surfaces if the air temperature drops below freezing.

The rate at which symptoms develop depends on the severity of the exposure and the conditions in the growing environment after the exposure. Continued cool temperatures and high humidity after exposure to cold may slow the development of symptoms, while high light intensity and warm temperatures may accelerate the appearance of symptoms.



# Chilling

Many chilling-injury symptoms are common to other stresses such as lack of water, root-rot diseases, chemical phytotoxicity, heat stress and light stress, and as such may be difficult to diagnose. General symptoms of chilling injury include surface lesions, pitting, large, sunken areas and discoloration; water-soaking in tissues, usually followed by wilting and browning; internal discoloration (browning); increased susceptibility to attack by fungi and bacteria; slower-than-normal growth (this may be difficult to identify without undamaged plants for comparison or a knowledge of the orchid's normal growth rate) and accelerated rate of natural death.

# Freezing

Symptoms of freeze injury include desiccation or burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves, and death of sections of the plant or the entire plant. Obvious symptoms may not be present until after the plant has been stressed by very warm temperatures.

# The Basics

Preparation for weathering winter's chills begins at the point of purchasing your orchids. Choose carefully for the growing conditions you are able to provide your plants. If you keep your home or greenhouse cool in the winter to save on heating costs, avoid the warmer-growing genera such as phalaenopsis and vanda. Instead, stick to intermediate- (most brassavolas, cattleyas, dendrobiums, epidendrums, laelias or mottled-leaved paphiopedilums) or cooler-growing (cymbidiums, masdevalias, miltonias, odontoglossums, oncidiums, plain-leaved paphiopedilums or sophronitis) orchids, depending on the conditions they will be grown under during the summer months. White or yellow vandas, as well as some dendrobiums (phalaenopsis-and antelope-types), are especially cold sensitive and do not like temperature drops below 60° F (16° C), and can be particularly prone to losing leaves when exposed to cooler temperatures. Seedlings and immature plants, particularly those in flasks or compots, are also much more sensitive to chills than their mature counterparts.

Another consideration for growers in northern climes is the shorter day length winter brings. Many orchids need 14 hours of light every day to flower successfully. Relying on daylight alone during winter months will not provide sufficient light to induce budding. Genera with high light requirements may produce healthy green foliage but without sufficient illumination might never reward their growers with the desired flowers. For indoor and greenhouse growers in the north, supplemental lighting may be necessary for optimal plant health and flowering. Depending on the type of light source chosen, the heat generated by the lamps may help counteract cold temperatures.

When adding to an orchid collection, choosing carefully to match the conditions you are able to provide as a grower will go a long way toward keeping your orchids in optimal health through winter's gloom and chills.

Once they're comfortably situated in your collection, cultural factors to consider in keeping them happy through the winter months include less frequent watering and fertilization. It is worth the extra effort to read up on the seasonal needs of the orchids in your collection. This is especially important for the species, but hybrids will benefit from this research as well. Some enter a period of partial or full dormancy; they will require a rest period at this time of year, and could be adversely affected if they do not receive one. As temperatures drop and daylight is reduced, their growth slows down or even stops, depending on the species or hybrid. The quantities of water and fertilizer they required for spring and summer growth are no longer needed and could negatively affect the plant unless reduced accordingly. Excess water can accelerate the breakdown of organic growing media (such as pine bark and sphagnum moss) and lead to root and plant rots. A surplus of fertilizer can accumulate in the growing media until the fertilizer salts burn the orchid's root and leaf tips, and actually inhibit rather than enhance growth.



Although winter requires preparation by the orchid grower, the shorter days are exactly what initiates bud development for seasonal species such as *Cattleya trianae*.

## Windowsill

Because they have less control over the quality and amount of lighting reaching their plants than under-lights growers, windowsill growers face special considerations during the winter months. The day length is shorter in the northern latitudes, so supplemental lighting may be needed for part of the day to maintain a comfortable day-night balance for the plants. At this time of year, the sun's angle is lower on the horizon and may no longer be shaded by trees that have lost their leaves for the winter. A fresh snowfall can also reflect a great deal more light than normal. A sheer curtain may be needed to protect your plants from sunburn at these times.

At night, a heavy curtain between the window and your orchids can act as an insulating barrier to help keep the nighttime temperatures from damaging sensitive tropical plants. Thermopane windows will also help — their two panes of glass separated by an air pocket are good for both orchids and heating bills in the winter time. Even sheets of bubble wrap covering the glass will help keep warmth in and winter chills out. Never allow the foliage to touch the glass; condensation can freeze on the windowpane and kill your orchid's leaves.

Good air movement will help maintain temperatures as well. A fan to circulate the air around the window helps keep temperatures uniform, and distributes and circulates heat from heaters or other sources to keep the growing area closer to the ambient temperature of the room rather than the cold outside.

# Greenhouses

Properly planned, a greenhouse may be constructed and oriented to minimize the effects of winter's chill on your orchids. The use of twin-walled instead of single-layered glazing materials adds insulation and reduces heat loss through the greenhouse exterior. Double-layered materials are also better able to withstand the weight of accumulated snow in the wintertime (but never allow the snow to remain on the greenhouse or it may cause damage). Attached greenhouses (those with one or more walls attached to a building), partially excavated and earthsheltered greenhouses retain heat better than freestanding models, and so cause growers less difficulty and expense to heat. Because one or more sides are opaque, attached and earth-sheltered greenhouses do not generally receive as much sunlight as a freestanding greenhouse.

## Orientation

the direction of the greenhouse roof relative to the sun's movement — allows growers to take best advantage of available light. During the cold months, to optimize winter growing conditions, an east-west orientation will allow the greatest amount of sunlight to reach your orchids through the shortest days of the year. This must be balanced with the needs of your orchids, the layout of your property, trees that might shade the greenhouse, etc. For maximum year-round exposure, a greenhouse with a north-south orientation is a better choice.

The next step is critical. Provide "backup, backup, backup and alarms," says Jan Szyren, horticulturist and greenhouse coordinator for Michigan State University. As Szyren notes, an alarm system is critical for notifying growers if the greenhouse temperature should fall below a certain level, as is a backup heating system. Supplemental heating need not maintain optimal temperatures, but protect the orchids from cold damage during a power outage or unusually cold temperatures. Should disaster strike and temperatures drop, try to keep your growing area above 45° F (7° C) at minimum. Gas- or diesel-powered generators, generator fuel and long, heavy duty extension cords for heating appliances and fans to distribute the heat are available at most home-improvement centers to heat your greenhouse during an emergency. Automated systems are available; manual systems are less expensive, but require that someone be on hand to operate them.

Kerosene or propane heaters are another option for supplemental heat if the power goes off, but their fumes that can damage flowers quickly, and to a lesser extent affect plants as well. In addition, these should never be used in attached greenhouses, as the fumes are toxic to people and animals. Greenhouses in which this equipment has been used should be ventilated before being reentered.



Ann Jesup of Bristol, Connecticut adds to and emphasizes the importance of seasonal preparation — “going over the greenhouse to check for and seal any air leaks, have the alarms, furnace and heating system tested, and,” she adds, “pray that the temperatures are not going to drop (in the greenhouse, anyway ...).”

As a last resort, moving your collection or your most treasured and cold-sensitive plants indoors temporarily may be an option. While they do not provide optimal growing conditions, homes are much better equipped to keep out the cold than greenhouses. This step can make the critical difference between plant survival and plant loss, so optimal culture can be foregone for a few days until the danger of freezing passes. If your collection is too large to bring indoors in its entirety, grouping those that would be moved indoors together or marking them with a special, brightly colored, easily identifiable tag can save time and plants as temperatures drop. Plastic sheeting or tarps can protect indoor surfaces and furniture from damage from dirt and dampness that comes in with the orchids.

## After the Fact

If the worst happens and your orchids are damaged by the cold, don't assume that they are goners. Treat the plant as though it has just been repotted — avoid direct sunlight and high temperatures, keep the medium moist and give them a weak solution of liquid plant food with a full compliment of minor elements. When you see the beginnings of new growth sprouting, apply a very light dose of fertilizer and continue with your weekly liquid food program.

The positive side of the occasional winter chill is that, in many cases, cool periods help induce or enhance bud initiation and flowering.

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*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

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*Each month I am going to include in our Keiki past speaker segments, which were written by Delia Dunn who was Secretary at the time – she has kept them all and it's a shame to waste what might be valuable information in each one.*

“Our speaker on April 18, 2009 was Shelton Thorne who had made 100 trips to Costa Rica in the past 15 years. Along with his very informative talk he had a slide presentation depicting the beauty of Costa Rica.

CR is half the size of Florida, 17,000 sq. miles, 3½ million citizens. It's hot and dry on the west coast of the Pacific, and it's cool and damp in the center in the cloud forest. Basically there is no humidity in CR other than under the canopy of the cloud forest and higher up around San Jose. They have 600 miles on the Pacific coast and 175 miles along the Caribbean coast and the best fishing in the world is found in CR. The name means “rich coast” named by its discoverer, Christopher Columbus.

CR has an astonishing number of plants, and people are drawn from all over the world to see the beautiful flowers that grow there. Of special interest to many are the numerous varieties of orchids. If you are an orchid fancier you are in for a fabulous treat once you get to Costa Rica. There are various options for seeing and studying orchids. Those that come to mind are, in nature, in botanical gardens, and in the regional orchid shows, specifically at the National Orchid Exposition.

The best time of the year for orchids in Costa Rica in the wild is just as the rainy season is starting up with the first scant rains. Many of the orchids in nature are triggered into their blooming cycle at that time. There are more than 1400 recognized species of orchids in Costa Rica and always 100 species in bloom. He showed many slides of the rainforest, with various orchids, some small, some large, many quite showy and many having amazing scents along with a few that smell truly unpleasant; waterfalls, of which he said there are tens of thousands. Monteverde rainforests have majestically tall trees covered with orchids, bromeliads, ferns, vines, and mosses.

Costa Rica is the most bio-intense spot in the world. They have 850 species of tropical birds, more species of butterflies in the country than in Africa. There are so many butterflies and caterpillars in the rain forest and the largest contribution they make is opening up the canopy above by 10% when as caterpillars they chew on the leaves far down below. The national flower is the cattleya skinneri (guarianthe skinneri). He showed us slides of the beautiful Jardin de guarias (Garden of skinneri) where there was nothing but hot pink orchids blooming all over the trees. They only bloom in March and only bloom for 2 weeks and are not fertilized or irrigated by man.

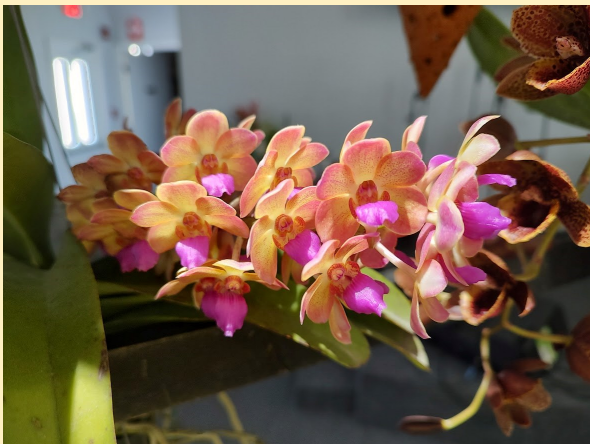
The Arenal Volcano in the north, rumbles, hisses or fumes every 20 minutes. He said boulders the size of autos can be thrown 300' into the air. The highest mountain peak in CR is 12,000'. To travel coast to coast across the country the average height is 4,200'.

Shelton talked about the politics of Costa Rica, their Cinco Colones which has no value at all, the friendliness of the people, their love of Americans, and their hospitality.

He showed us the Taisuco Show Room full of orchids. That is the old Taiwan Sugar Company which now has diversified into tourism, floriculture, biotechnology and retailing. Many of our orchid plants today come from Taisuco. He showed us slides of the Hyacinthe Macaw, which is the largest and strongest of all the macaws and the largest flying parrot species in the world. Shelton ended his talk by giving the best times to travel to Costa Rica depending on what your interests were. Shelton had some samples of Costa Rican coffee for us and many of us were ready to take off for Costa Rica by the time he was finished his descriptive talk.”











## NCOS Show Table 11-18-2023

Plant Name	Grower
Vanda Hybrid	Herb May
V.Wuttiphanara Manoonya	Herb May
Vanda Hybrid	Gertie Messenger
V.Wuttiphanara	Randy Dugan
Fdk.After Dark	Randy Dugan
Fdk.After Dark 'SVO' FCC/AOS	Rachel Herter
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS	Matt Riesz
C. dowiana	Randy Dugan
C. Hybrid (Pink)	Randy Dugan
Miltassia Hybrid	Herb May
Rlc. George King 'Serendipity'	Nancy Huff
Lc. Susanna x speciosum	Dan Grant
Bulb. Elizabeth Ann	Dan Grant
Pleurothallis homas	Susan Kimmel
Pot. Naomi's Delight	Matt Riesz
Den. bractescens	Matt Riesz
Blc. Paradise 'Hawaiian Lightning'	Randy Dugan
Rlc. Chomthong Fancy	Matt Riesz
Pot. Paradise Rose 'My Valentine' x Pot. Loud Nine 'Unbeatable'	Matt Riesz
Pcv. Key Lime Stars	Dortha Atallah
Unknown Hybrid	Dortha Atallah



**NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY**  
Annual Show **"ORCHID OASIS"**

American Orchid Society  
Judged Orchids on Display

**APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> – APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
Saturday – 10 a.m. to 4 pm.  
Sunday – 10 a.m. to 4 pm.

**New Location – St. Joan of Arc Church**  
13485 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34609  
Corner of Spring Hill Dr. & Coronado Dr.  
About 1.5 miles West of FL-589.

ADMISSION \$5  
FREE PARKING

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## The American Orchid Society Webinars

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch the recorded webinars any time. Some webinars require you to be an AOS member.

# Upcoming Webinars



**Webinars - Coming Attractions!**

REGISTRATION IS EASY <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>  
 Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.  
 Register now and view on your time schedule.  
 Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)  
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Jan. 03, 2024 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Jan. 23, 2024 8:30 pm EST Tuesday	Feb. 07 2024 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Feb. 08, 2024 8:30 pm EST Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Jan. 01</i>	Multi-floral Paphiopedilums Desirable and Highly Awarded Slipper Orchids	Phalaenopsis: From Soup to Nuts A Panorama of Moth Orchids for Everyone	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb.06</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Carol Klonowski Hobby Grower, AOS Judge	David Edgley AOS Judge, Judging Committee Chair	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

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Many Thanks to all the orchid growers that  
donated plants to help make our annual auction  
a success

**Accent Orchids, St. Petersburg**

**St. Pete Orchid Farm, St. Petersburg**

**Orchids In Bloom, Apopka**

**Ecuagenera, Apopka**

**Smiley Orchids, Clermont**

**Florida Suncoast Orchids, Myakka City**

**Palmer Orchids, Sarasota**