



THE KEIKI



Coming Soon



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November 2023

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, November 18th for our meeting featuring Lady Vanda

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Thanks to those who have contributed to our club.....Advertisement page

President's Message



Hello everyone, happy Turkey-Month! We have another great speaker for our meeting this month on November 18th. Lady Vanda Orchids will be joining us, and they'll be talking about Vandas. They WILL have orchids for sale. We'll also be making plans for our holiday party in December, and will pass out sign-up sheets for dishes.

As we enter this holiday season, the weather is starting to turn cooler and the days are shorter. This triggers many changes in our orchids that you should remember and prepare for. The shorter days trigger blooming in many Cattleya types, so get ready to enjoy them. Some of mine have already begun. Other orchids, like Catasetums and Nobile-type (also called soft-cane) Dendrobiums are ready to enter their dormant periods.

Catasetums should be allowed to dry more now between watering, and stop feeding them at this time. When their leaves turn yellow and drop this is normal and is a signal to stop all watering. If, by the end of December, they haven't already dropped their leaves then stop watering them completely anyway. Do not begin watering again until new growth has appeared and the roots are at least 4 inches long. Keep them relatively warm during their dormant period

Nobile-type Dendrobiums and other deciduous ones like anosmum also need a dry and cool period to encourage them to initiate bloom. Now is the time to reduce watering for these orchids, though perhaps not as completely as Catasetums. They can also tolerate quite cool temperatures – even into the 30s. Once buds appear along the canes and increase in size then you can begin watering again.

Standard phalaenopsis orchids (as opposed to the summer-blooming “novelty” types like Phal. bellina) are triggered into their blooming cycle by several cool days with nights in the 50s. So let them get a little cool before bringing them in for the winter. It will take a few weeks for flower spikes to appear, but they WILL, so be patient.

Lastly, many of our orchids do not appreciate temperatures below 60 (or maybe 50) degrees, so plan for how you will give them that protection during the winter months. These include Vandas, Phal-type Dendrobiums, and some others.

One reminder: Annual dues will be due in January, but we’ll happily accept them earlier. We’ll send reminders again in December and in the Keiki.

Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving, with many things to be thankful for!

Matt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<u>President</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Past President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Bob East
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Bella Roberts
<u>Treasurer</u>	Herbert May
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Trustees</u>	Rosanne Wenz Jeanne Montgomery

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<u>Auction Chair</u>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Show Chair</u>	Bob East
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<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
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<u>Publicity</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Annie Aierstock
<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 2023

Updated as of 3/1/2023

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

March 18th/19th – annual orchid show

April 15th – Bill Nunez – Vanilla orchids in FL

May 20th – repotting workshop

***June 24th – Ecuagenera/Dayanette

July 15th – Bret Ullery – Accent Orchids

August 19th – Auction

September 16th – Norman Fang

***October 14th - Picnic

November 18th - Lady Vanda

December 16th - <Holiday Party>



Membership Notes

by Arlene Appelbaum

NCOS had its yearly picnic in October. The food was delicious, with special thanks to our chefs, Jeff and Matt. We all enjoyed ourselves very much. Thank you Cheryl Crilly for the novel game of "Orchid" a/k/a bingo. That was definitely a hit among all who were there. We now boast a total membership of 127 people.

Our November meeting is scheduled for 11/18 and will be our last meeting of the year. I would like to urge those who plan to attend to please bring your check for the 2024 calendar year. Dues remain at \$20.00 for a single and \$25.00 for a family membership. This will allow for a smoother and faster process rather than waiting until January, when the wait time at the membership table will undoubtedly be much longer. For those of you who cannot attend this month's meeting, here's to a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Arlene Appelbaum
Membership

MEMBERS:

Arlene has graciously taken over sending get-well cards and sympathy cards to members. If you know of any members who are ill or grieving, please send her an email to let her know at fluffy2cats@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



Monthly Checklist for November and December

Cattleya

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

Cool-Growing Orchids

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.



Cymbidium ensifolium produces delicate flowers with a delightful citrus fragrance

Cymbidium

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

Oncidium crispum Complex

This is the season for plants in *Oncidium* section *crispum* from Brazil to shine. Extremely vigorous hybrids come in wide varieties of markings dominated with chestnut and brown and butter yellow. Give plants high light to produce strong upright inflorescences. The pseudobulbs should be plump, so do not let the plants dry out while they are in bloom. Later, plants will enter a dormant period.

Paphiopedilum

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. Paphiopedilums are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike

While paphiopedilums rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Overwatering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With paphiopedilums, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

Phalaenopsis

Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in phalaenopsis. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our phalaenopsis will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

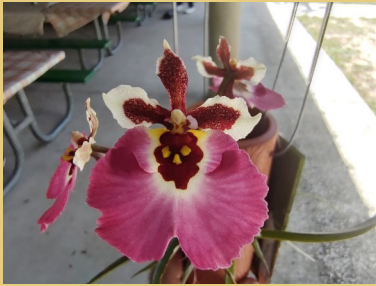
A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

Vandaceous Genera

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Neofinetia falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

From AOS Website. Please join the AOS to access webinars and information





Many thanks to Jeff Rundell for this article for our Keiki

I haven't written much for the Keiki in a very long time. When I was president writing articles was a monthly task that I relished at first but became more challenging each time. A couple of meetings ago a newer member approached me and changed all that by asking a question that, in its simplicity, awakened something and gave me a purpose I have not experienced in a while. Sometimes I think orchid growers get lost in the details and technology of breeding, fertilizer, light, watering and disease. It's easy to miss the wondrous bigger beautiful picture of her question.

What is an orchid?

Although I can provide only a few paragraphs here, I would encourage you to spend some time contemplating that question and trying to understand how and why orchids have become what they are. At the most basic level, and this might sound a bit flaky, just sit and contemplate one of your favorite orchids. Look at each part of it because the more you understand what the plant is doing and why it is either succeeding to failing the better grower you will be. Remember that you are a slave to that beautiful plant sitting comfortably in its lovely pot and generally being fawned over with proper light, fertilizer, water and love. You might start wondering just who is controlling whom?

More realistically you are looking at a soldier that has been removed from a war zone. That's where orchids grow, in war zones like forests, grasslands and even bare rock. These natural environments that we often visit and perceive as beautiful, peaceful, relaxing places are anything but that to an orchid and almost any other organism. It's a constant battle for light, water and nutrients. Then there are armies of foraging insects, bacterial and fungal diseases. If you are going to succeed in any war zone you need strategies that involve defenses, weapons, and even a fair amount of trickery to wind up winning. The beautiful blossoms we seek along with the plants we treasure are, according to some, among the most highly evolved plants on earth. They are also among the most sly tricksters able to enlist fungi, insects, birds, amphibians and yes, humans in their quest to succeed.

plant kingdom were conifers (gymnosperms) .There we're Huge redwood-like trees too big to be knocked over by the dinosaurs along with cycads like our native coontie, the sago "palm" and tree ferns. Flowering plants appear unexplainably suddenly in the fossil record. Darwin was really perplexed by that event and incidentally he studied and wrote books about orchids. These beautiful flowers we love are very, very "expensive" to the plant. Lots of nutrients and energy go into their formation so the blooming strategy better be unique and successful.

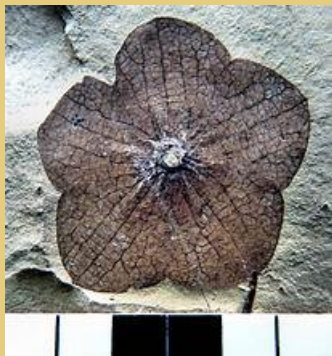
Somewhere around 70 million years ago that all happened with the rise of flowering plants which spring off of those conifers. Among the first was the Lilly family which includes orchids. You may recall from basic bio. 101 that the world of flowering plants is roughly divided in half . Dicots have 2 seed halves, floral parts in multiples of 4s or 5s and branching or netted leaf veins while monocots (including orchids) have a single seed cotyledon, floral parts in 3s or multiples of 3s and parallel leaf veins. Dicots also tend to have tap roots, while monocots have more fibrous roots.

So what did orchids cook up to gain the success that made them the biggest most diverse family of flowering plants on the planet? Roughly 10% of all flowering plants species are orchids. That number is closing in on 30,000 and new species are still being discovered and added to that total. Their diversity is unmatched in the plant world. So how did they do it? Their beauty conceals the fact that many orchids know how to use other organisms for their own benefit. They flourish by using strategies that might upset you if you were one of residents of their habitat. Their seeds are tiny and contain no nutrients so they depend on microbes like fungi to feed their seedlings. Their flowers can look and smell like a female insect attracting males thru "pseudocopulation" to pollinate them. They can have faux fungal colony spots to attract little fungus gnats to drop in. Their petals can move in ways that signal pollinators to come on down.

Orchids have cooked up ways to survive that are probably the envy of other plants. Need more light? Hang yourself up in trees with adhesive roots and pseudobulbs to store water and nutrients. Need protection from insects and disease? Grow a thick waxy coating (cuticle) or better yet, give some aggressive ants a home so they can attack your predators (myrmecophiles). Make yourself look and smell like a female insect ready to mate and make it all happen before the actual females are fertile. Face it, orchids are the unapologetic scam artists

If you've read this far, please allow me to make just a couple of final pleas. As an orchid lover try to broaden your perspective. Our orchids did not originate in a greenhouse. Many came from ecosystems that are in severe decline. For example, tropical cloud forests are moving up 10 meters per year and lowland Amazon forests may disappear in less than a decade. Supporting conservation, especially in unique areas like Madagascar or New Guinea, can preserve the possibility of discovering new orchid species. Check out what you are using to grow your orchids. I used to use Osmunda (Royal Fern) fiber until it became clear it was disappearing. Fir bark or Orchiata (sustainably reforested Pinus radiata from NZ)? Tree fern or renewable cork? Good arguments can be made about all these things so it's worth thinking and researching what you use on your orchids.

Consider broadening your horizons by reading some "orchid thrillers" like *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean or *Scent of a Scandal* by Craig Pittman (Greed, betrayal and the world's most beautiful orchid). My favorite is *Orchid Fever* (a horticultural tale of love lust and lunacy) by Annie Proulx. I can loan these to any member. Most of all have fun. See you at our next meeting.



Early fossil flower



Myrmecophile orchid



Faux fungal colonies on a paph



Ophrys bee mimic orchid

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



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
 Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Nov. 15, 2023 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Nov. 16, 2023 8:30 pm EST Thursday	Throughout December Check Out the Timeless Collection of Recorded Webinars Use the webinar display filter to join the global community of orchid-growers by selecting from our broad range of webinar topics. The world's top orchid experts share the latest valuable information on caring for your orchids, orchid research and continuing education.
Topic	Brassavola Well Known and Easily Cultivated Genus	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Nov. 13</i>	
Presenter	Beth Martin AOS Accredited Judge	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	



All New Webinars Will Return After December Break
Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Go here to join the AOS:
<https://secure.aos.org/join/new->

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