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have contributed to our
club.....Advertisement
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THE KEIKI



Next meeting



March 16th, 2024: "Growing and Flowering Your Cattleyas Better" will be presented by Courtney Hackney. Courtney is a marine ecologist specializing in coastal wetlands. The former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida, he is now Professor Emeritus, i.e. he retired. Although he grows many different orchids, his favorite is the Cattleyas & resulted in his publishing *American Cattleyas*, in 2004. Together, he & his wife, Rose Ganucheau, run Hackneau's Art & Orchids. He will be bringing plants for us to buy.



President's Message

Hi Everyone!

As I write this, I am hopeful that the cold weather of winter is behind us. I'm certainly tired of moving my orchids in and out of the house whenever we get one of those cold periods. This winter certainly seems to have been colder than normal even though we haven't had any serious cold snaps. I think that weather is to blame for many of my orchids lagging behind in their blooming. My soft-cane Dendrobiums all have buds, but so far few are open. I think a couple of weeks of warmer weather will fix that quickly. Please keep posting pictures of your flowers on our Facebook page!

Please remember that our annual show is only a little over a month away. Continue to prep your plants by keeping them clean and free of insects and fungal damage, and stake the emerging inflorescences of Phalaenopsis and others as they grow. Remember that Phals will look better if you make sure to always orient them the exact same way toward the light.

Our speaker this month will be Courtney Hackney, talking to us about "*Growing and Flowering Your Cattleyas Better*". If you're like me, your Catts always need a little help looking their best. He will be bringing plants for sale, and he will also accept pre-orders. His plant list is available as a download from our website or by sending an email to me or to Susan Kimmel. Courtney makes a lot of his own crosses, meaning they're not available anywhere else. So these are special plants and not to be missed!

As Spring approaches (and it must be, because everything is covered with pollen), I look for a few things as far as plant care. If you have Catasetums, do NOT start watering yet. Wait until new growths are at least 6 inches tall, the leaves have begun to spread out, and the roots are well into the mix. You could repot now, but don't start watering. Soft cane Dendrobiums like Nobile-types, anosmum, aphyllum, etc. will have begun pushing buds or even be in bloom. You can start watering them again now as they have broken dormancy. Vandas should continue to receive regular water daily, and food at least weekly. Phalaenopsis and others like hard-cane Dendrobiums that have spent the winter inside to be above 60 degrees will have been growing all along and still need regular watering. It is also time to start looking into repotting any plants that need it. Once the weather warms up your plants will respond by pushing new growth, and that's a good time for repotting and dividing.

Lastly, IT'S SHOW SEASON – GO TO A SHOW! There seems to be a show nearly every weekend somewhere, from February through April. So don't miss the opportunity!

Best wishes, everyone!

Matt

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NCOS speaker schedule through December 2024

Updated as of 02/7/2024

April 13th and 14th, 2024: our annual AOS-judged orchid show to be held at St. Joan of Arc Church, 13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609. The theme is "Orchid Oasis". We will have many great vendors selling orchids, potting supplies, and orchid-related items.

May 18th, 2024: We will hold a workshop on Repotting and Mounting Orchids

June 15th, 2024 Jim-N-I Orchids

July 20th, 2024. Nick, from Rusty Exotics will talk about growing Habenarias in Florida

August 17th, 2024. Annual NCOS orchid auction

September 5th, 2024. Note this is a change from our normal meeting schedule.

Fred Clarke, of Sunset Valley Orchids in California will be our speaker

October 18th, 2024. Annual NCOS picnic

November 16th, 2024. "Dendrobium anosmum and its Relatives" talk will be presented by Jim Roberts, of Florida Sun-coast Orchids. Jim has been growing orchids over 30 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida growing conditions. He has traveled extensively in search of orchid treasures in Hawaii, South America, & Europe, seeking the plants that will grow and bloom best for his clients. He will have orchids for sale.

December 14th, 2024. Annual Holiday Party



Membership Notes

by Arlene Appelbaum

Our February 17th membership meeting boasted an attendance of 52 signed in members and 3 guests.

Happily we welcomed 6 new members to NCOS.

Name badges have been ordered for those folks who paid for them and will be available for pickup at our March 16th meeting.

NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY
Annual Show and Sale
"ORCHID OASIS"

APRIL 13TH – APRIL 14TH
 Saturday – 10 a.m. to 4 pm.
 Sunday – 10 a.m. to 4 pm.

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 Judged Orchids on Display

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Show Special
 We will have 2 lectures per day:
 11:00AM and 1:00PM



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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.

Vendors:

Accent Orchids * Garden Trails Orchid Supplies * Jim-N-I-Orchids * Orchids in Bloom
 Smiley Orchids * Lady Vanda Orchids * Florida Orchid House * Miranda Orchids *
 Plus more...

Cattleyas in Brazil

With Speaker Francisco Miranda

Summarized by Denise Provencher

Cattleya orchids are often thought of by many people as fragile and temperamental. In their natural habitats in Brazil however, they may be found in many varied environments, such as growing in 110-degree temperatures in sand dunes, or even on a cactus limb. They can be found on a mountain at 5,000-foot elevation, with freezing temperatures. The tenacity of a cattleya surviving a brush fire may also impress you. Knowing the various and often challenging conditions these plants grow in may not only surprise you, but also show that these plants are tougher than we think, and there just may be one or more for your growing conditions at home.

Speaker Francisco Miranda, of Miranda Orchids, specialist in the Cattleyas of Brazil, surprised many of us with the facts about these incredible orchids. Francisco and his wife Maria Christina both own and operate Miranda Orchids in Haines City. Both native Brazilians, they have had the opportunity to explore all the various regions of this beautiful country. They also owned Boa Vista Orchids in Brazil since 1986, until they relocated to the United States in 1999.

When most people think of Brazil, they visualize a steamy, hot jungle. But the land is so much more varied than that. Francisco explained the very diverse and varied biomes and climate of Brazil, and the cattleyas that grow in each of them.

There is jungle, yes, with its tropical rain forest, and swampy, flooded areas. But surprisingly, there are not that many orchids there, due to the dense canopy of foliage that blocks the sunlight. The orchids that do exist are often higher in the trees where they can find light.

The Igapo, or permanently flooded areas, are an interesting environment to grow in for any plant. Deep water flooding can last for months, killing many plants, but orchids have adapted by growing in trees above the high-water line.

There are also dryland forests that are not prone to the flooding of the swampy areas. The plant growth is very dense, the soil is clay, and very little light reaches the ground here. These types of forest lands are impossible to grow back once destroyed. There are not as many orchid species here.

The open Campina of central Amazon, with white sand, good drainage, and more sunlight offer a better environment for many more orchid species. Here, the trees are smaller due to the poor footing in the sandy soil.

The dry region of Central Brazil with a mere 6% humidity, stays dry except for 2-3 months of the year when the rains come, and the area becomes a temporary jungle of growth. There are still orchids that can grow in this environment. Some areas do not receive rain for 2 or 3 years!

In the canyons and tablelands there are brush fires, but the orchids and tillandsias found there have adapted to survive these harsh conditions. Leaves may be burned away, but as long as the growth portion of the plant survives, they will rejuvenate.

The sand dunes along coastal areas may bake in the sun, and the orchids growing here have nearly yellow foliage due to the brilliant sun, but they survive just fine due to the constant breezes cooling them down. Large groups can be seen in flower. These types of areas are of great concern, as human development is destroying these natural habitats.

For the home grower of Cattleyas, this knowledge presents good opportunities to find varieties of these beautiful orchids that will grow very well in average home conditions.

Francisco notes it is the cattleyas from the jungle areas that are often the most challenging to grow, as they are used to the constant, stable, year-round conditions of warmth and humidity. These conditions are often difficult if not impossible for the average grower to provide, and often the result is plant failure.

Orchids from areas where seasonal variations occur, with accompanying changes in temperatures, rainfall, humidity, and growing conditions often make more successful plants for the average grower. With Brazil's varied environments including, humid/tropical, low elevations/ mountains, and dry conditions, there are excellent choices available for cattleya lovers.

Points for successful cattleya growing:

Blooms are often triggered by the start or completion of the rainy season in nature.

Some orchids like stress, and need it to grow. It reminds them of home!

When growing conditions are warmer, give more shade.

When it's cooler, give more light.

Temperatures down to 45 degrees help induce bloom, even in cattleyas.

C. Loddigesii for example, can take a frost with no damage.

When purchasing your cattleyas, ask the seller, or research yourself, where the species is from, and the environmental specifics for that plant.

You can water all your cattleyas at once, even if they have varied water needs, just by varying the medium they are growing in.

Many cattleyas make new root growth once a year, so be careful when handling or transplanting not to damage this new growth, or the plant will not produce new roots until the same timeframe next year.

Cattleyas like to be pot-bound, so don't be too eager to repot.

To contact Miranda Orchids:

<https://www.mirandaorchids.com>

4763 Polk City Rd.,
Haines City, FL 33844

863-875-8255

info@mirandaorchids.com

Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm EST, and we are open by appointment only.

UPDATE: at this time, we are not accepting visits due to construction and repairs. We will update the website again when the situation changes.



This is the 'past speaker segment' from 7-18-09 which was written by Delia Dunn. This should not be confused with the speaker we had this month who spoke about Cattleyas in Brazil.

The speaker in July, Charlie Chapman with Chapman's Orchids, told us about Catasetums with slide show and potting demonstration. He passed around a couple of his own plants with buds. His slides also had examples of *Cycnoches* (Swan Orchid); *Mormodes* (Goblin Orchid); *Clowesia* – both sexes – small clustered flowers. He also had *Catasetum keikis* to sell in the lobby, colors ranging from white to very dark brown. The best *Catasetum* growers are in South America he said.

He showed us slides of plants where male and female flowers were on each inflorescence and you can tell which is which by their shape. Light and fertilizer dictate what sex they are going to be. The male needs less and the female, more. The flower has no nectar but an oil that insects like to rub into to attract the opposite sex. He talked about the Euglossine Bees. There is a great description with pictures on-line under that name.

Catasetums like strong light just like Cattleyas and require temperatures in the range of 60-100 degrees in the growing season and 55-80 degrees otherwise. They need heavy air movement and fertilizer in the growth period of 30-10-10 1 tbsp. per gallon. And any other time just a balanced fertilizer like 13-13-13 or 20-20-20. He said any brand of fertilizer will work with these plants. The watering and fertilizer you do today is for next year's blooms. Heavy watering 2-3 times a week during their growth period but when the leaves turn yellow only mist and remove the yellowing leaves.

The plants have thin deciduous leaves that fall off and the plants live off their pseudobulbs from December through February. During that time he dries the medium out – spider mites love them when they are dry so he sprays for them. Time-release fertilizer won't work when it's dry so in the winter they are not receiving fertilizer from their medium. He might mist the plant only lightly once a week in winter so the pseudobulb does not dry out. Or he might take them out of the pots or sit them in net pots and mist them, keeping them in a much shadier place. About March they come back with a new pseudobulb.

If rot appears and the plant appears to be dying, cut off the bad part and lay the plant on sphagnum moss to try to save it.

Prior to potting he runs his pots thru the dishwasher to sterilize. He uses lots of time release fertilizer in his potting material for these plants. He uses wet sphagnum, coconut chips and perlite layered with slow release fertilizer. He buys the cheapest deal on time release and uses whichever one he can find at the time. He cuts off completely dehydrated pseudobulbs with no active eyes. All the energy is then transferred forward to the rest of the plant. It's normal for bulbs to die off when they're old and used up. He'd brought a plant to repot and removed it from the pot showing it was root bound, then he cut off the majority of the chunk of roots and left only the new growth close to the plant. He sealed the wounds with Cinnamon to kill bacteria, and in the pot he put a thick layer of time release fertilizer then a layer of his special damp mix which included fertilizer and kept layering with even more time release and then another layer of the sphagnum mix until it was high enough to put the short root system in and then he clipped the plant into the pot with a pre-coated wire formed into a hoop and tied it in. Divisions are taken in the spring when minimum of two pseudobulbs are available.

He figures out when the roots are about 4" long and then he waters and fertilizes two times a week.

He warned us not to touch the flowers or they will eject their pollen onto you and once that happens the plant won't flower again.

Paphiopedilums - In the repotting demonstration he happened to mention that the roots of **Paphs** were so delicate that you do not cram them tightly into a new pot.

Sphagnum - And he reminded everyone if you have any broken skin at all, when using Sphagnum to always wear gloves to prevent rash or infection.

After Mr. Chapman left and before the meeting ended Lyn Bugbee gave additional information about Catasetums. She advised not to let fertilizer beads touch the roots or they'll suffer burns. With fertilizer, the roots will spiral around the pot very quickly and then the plant will take off. If the plant puts its roots onto the fertilizer beads that's OK.

Fertilize every day if you don't have time release in the pot. Any plant that goes dormant needs so much fertilizer to get it going. If leaves are half green and half yellow you must take the leaves off. If the bulbs get soft and shrink they are dying and want to have water.

The plants don't need so much nitrogen once they make a nice big fan of leaves. Lyn uses a fertilizer with a high first number and a high last number for Catasetums. Every person's growing situation is different so there is no one special way to grow a plant for everybody. You have to adapt to your situation. Just remember every plant blooms every year so if yours is not blooming figure out what is missing. Adaptation is what it's all about.

Special Announcement:

There will be a new Keiki editor starting in April. We thank Julie so much for all her work producing the Monthly Keiki bulletin.

The new editor will be Denise Provencher.

Please send all your regular monthly Keiki contributions to:
deemail@tampabay.rr.com by the end of the month to be included in the next month's Keiki.

All members are welcome to send items to the editor.

Send photos of your orchids, don't be afraid to show them off!

Let us know of any shows or events that members would be interested in.

Tips, hacks, and great ideas on orchid growing are always appreciated.





NCOS Show Table 2-17-2024

Plant Name	Grower
Cyclopogon lindleyana 'Joyce Constance' CHM/AOS	Matt Riesz
Den. Blue Twinkle	Matt Riesz
Den. Keshmakesh	Matt Riesz
Ctt. Jewel Box	Randy Dugan
Onc. Twinkle 'White Shower'	Dorothea Atallah
Den. tanii x sib.	Dorothea Atallah
Paph. Magic Cherry	Doris Keyser
Rth. Young-Min Orange 'Golden Satisfaction'	Doris Keyser
Angcm. Sesquipedale	Abi Roy
C. percivaliana	Dan Grant
Rth. Fuchs Orange Nuggett 'Kumquat'	Jeff Rundell
Rlc. Golf Green 'Hair Pig'	Patty Cornwell
Den. kingianum	Susan Kimmel

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

