



# THE KEIKI



**Coming Soon**



Volume 30  
Issue 1  
January 2022

January 22nd will be our regular meeting, one week later than usual. Pam Waters will be our speaker. Please bring your checkbook, as dues for 2022 are due now.

February 26th will be our regular meeting, again one week later than usual

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## President's Message

**From Steve Mattana**



Happy new year everyone!

Here we are at the beginning of 2022. The board will meet on January 19 at 1 pm. Our next group meeting will be on January 22. We have to give up our normal meeting date for the VFW this month and in February. The February meeting will be on the 26th. I hope Santa Claus brought everyone what they were looking for this year. And certainly hope everyone had a good time celebrating with their loved ones. This year is going to be a terrific year, even better than last year. We will be starting the year off with Pam Waters from Orchids in Bloom. As always she will bring an amazing display of plants. And of course she will do her presentation on the plants that she's bringing. In February we will have a Garden Trails as our speaker. He will be talking about medium that he carries as well as different chemicals to protect your plants. Then that brings us to March for our spring show. It's going to be outstanding! Vendors are all lined up and anxious to get started. A note of importance, a new venue for our meetings should be looked into. If anyone has any ideas, please contact Matt Riesz or myself. Looks like we're beginning to run out of room! And that is a good thing. In April we will have nominations for officers, as well as member plant sales. That's it for now, see you in a couple of weeks.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**OFFICERS**

<u>President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Past President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Sharon Wagner
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Corbin Beller
<u>Treasurer</u>	Yvette Lewis
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Jeanne Montgomery/Sue Taylor
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Ruth Taylor

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**COMMITTEES**

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Matt Riesz and Julie Smolka
<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Membership</u>	Arlene and Arty Appelbaum
<u>Publicity</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	<b>Volunteers please</b>
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	<b>Volunteers please</b>
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Corbin Beller
<u>Trips</u>	<b>Volunteers please</b>
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
	(Website set up by Ken Dunn)
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

**Corbin's Corner**

I hope everyone had a great break away from the Society and all your holiday's went well. We had no meetings in November or December.

For our January 22 meeting (one week later than usual) we are hosting Pam Waters from Orchids in Bloom 2001 Rock Springs Road Apopka. Pam will be bringing an assortment of orchids as usual however the focus of her talk will be on Cattleya walkeriana and how she successfully grows and blooms it. This is a wonderful species of orchid that is highly fragrant and very compact. She will also touch base on Rhynchostylis gigantea that she spoke about last year. She has a variety of colors on these amazing and highly fragrant orchids, Pam always brings in some amazing blooming plants that are guaranteed to wow.



## Exciting Events Coming Up!!

### NCOS Spring Orchid Show

### “Dancing with the Orchids”

### March 19th and 20th, 2022

Our 2022 annual orchid show will be held on March 19th and 20th at the VFW, with setup on Friday, March 18th. We'll need lots of volunteers to help with setup on the 18th, judging on the 19th and takedown on the 20th. Once again, our show will be AOS-judged. Of course, we'll also need your blooming plants! Now is the time to start preparing those plants for show—staking the emerging inflorescences; cleaning up any bugs, dead leaves, water stains on the leaves; etc.—whatever will help show your beautiful flowers to their best advantage.

### Some pictures from our 2021 show



# ORCHID QUIZ



## Membership Notes for January by Arlene Appelbaum

DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH. Please come to the meeting on January 22nd and bring your checkbook. Dues this year are \$20 for an individual member, or \$25 for a family all living at the same address.

### Florida Native Orchids

- 1) How many native orchid species does Florida have?
  - A. 75
  - B. 10
  - C. 99
  - D None
- 2\_ Dendrophylax lindenii is also known as the
  - A. Spider orchid
  - B. Ghost orchid
  - C. Iguana Orchid
  - D. Butterfly orchid
- 3) Orchids native our Nature Coast area include
  - A. Green Fly orchid, Epidendrum magnoliae
  - B. Epidendrum tampensis
  - C. Habenaria floribunda
  - D. Habenaria quinqueseta
  - E. All of the above
- 4) Vanilla orchids are native to Florida
  - A. True
  - B. False
- 5) The Cigar orchid, Cyrtopodium punctatum, is native to
  - A. Havana, Cuba
  - B. The Nature Coast
  - C. The Florida panhandle
  - D. The Everglades
  - E. None of the above

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Yvette Lewis

### Current Report as of 12/31/2021:

Prior bal. as of 11/30/2021: \$14,401.74  
 Total receipts (raffle, etc.): \$550.00  
 Total disbursements: \$ -  
 Bank bal. as of 12/31/2021: \$14,951.74  
 Outstanding Checks: \$ -  
 Cash On Hand 12/31/2021: \$14,951.74

### 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](mailto:fluffy2cats@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!



Epi. magnoliae

## FOR THE NOVICE

# Why Do You Grow the Orchids You Grow?

By Sue Bottom/Photographs by Terry Bottom (Photos can be viewed in *ORCHIDS*, January 2016, pages 26 through 29)

## Now It's Habenarias

Has your taste in orchids changed over time? When you first start growing orchids, you buy everything in sight, all you know is that you need more, more! Cattleyas are my enduring favorite, the incredible flowers, the fragrance, perhaps that's why most of the benches and overhead poles are filled with them. But then you go to an orchid show and see something that you simply can't live without.

In the beginning it was phalaenopsis. When we were living in Houston, the Houston Orchid Society was a phalaenopsis club thanks in part to Bill Tippitt's breeding of multifloral phals. It was an exciting time for phalaenopsis, the hybridizing for yellows was in its heyday and the harlequin phals had just been introduced. How can you not love phals with their long lived graceful blooms?

Then one day Stephen Moffitt gave a presentation to the Galveston club about catasetums, so naturally I started growing them. What is easier than a plant that requires no winter care during its dormancy but grows like mad in the summer? Add Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids into the mix with all his beautiful and fascinating hybrids and there are new wows to tempt you every year.

Next there was the vanda phase, so many colors, sizes and shapes! After that it was the ephemeral stanhopeas. That addiction started with a *Stanhopea grandiflora* that bloomed 8 times in one year, can you spell hooked? It took a bit of observing how others succeeded with theirs and some trial and error until I could reliably rebloom them and by then I had almost two dozen different varieties. After that came the African angraecoids in their white and green glory, the dendrochilums with their chains of miniature flowers and... well, you get the idea.

Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries had some *Habenaria medusa* seedlings for sale when he came to talk to our club and I had seen pictures of this oddity and thought, why not? When it bloomed, it was love at first sight and the hunt was on for more. There have been many enablers along the way, including Thanh Nguyen of Springwater Orchids on the east coast and Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids on the west coast and several in between. Before the year was over, there were about two dozen habenarias in the greenhouse, orchids that grow from tubers and require a dry dormant winter.

That's how I found myself outdoors on a cold January afternoon with all these dead looking plants figuring out how I was going to repot them so they'd come back to life in the spring. The trickiest part is keeping the tuber oriented so the shoot end is pointing up and the root end is pointing down, easier said than done in that one end looks pretty much like the other. I think I made the wrong decision on one or two of them last year. For the similarly afflicted, this is what I have gleaned from reading about them and talking with other orchid growers.

**Pot Selection.** First, look for deeper standard size pots rather than azalea or bulb type pots. Don't use peanuts at the bottom of the pot because that's where the tubers will want to form. Use smallish pots, if you think you're slightly underpotting, you've probably chosen the right pot.

**Potting Mix.** Most folks suggest using either sphagnum moss or Pro-Mix HP as your potting mix. I opted for a Pro-Mix HP/sponge rock mix and top dressed with a little sphagnum moss so the soilless mix wouldn't wash out of the pot. If you use sphagnum, make sure you have the AAA grade, otherwise find a good soilless mix. Next year I may try a few in straight sphagnum moss packed tightly enough that the plants will stand up without support.

**When to Repot.** After flowering, the vegetation starts to brown and the plant begins to enter dormancy. The tubers are still growing and storing energy for next year's growth so just limit your watering until the plant dies back. Don't be in any hurry to remove the dead top vegetation from the pot because that will help you orient the tubers properly during the repotting process.

**Tuber Orientation.** If you just knock the plant out of the pot and clean away the old potting mix like you would with other orchids, you'll find yourself saying oops, which end is up? The first time repotting, I held the tubers in my hand oriented top to bottom from depotting through repotting, to make sure they didn't get turned around. Often you can tell there is a pointy end from which the shoot grows that should be oriented up when you repot. But if you can't tell which end should be up, hedge your bets and lay the tuber sideways.

**Then You Wait.** Once your tuber is happily ensconced in its dry new home, put the pot someplace where it won't accidentally get watered. You have to wait until the tuber breaks dormancy and sends up a new shoot and then you can begin watering. If there is no new growth when all your other orchids have spring fever, you can give your *Habenaria* an occasional sip to encourage it to start growing. Once it has a few inches of height, give it copious amounts of water and fertilizer during the growing season because like your other winter dormant orchids, it has to cram 12 months of growing into 7 or 8 months. In the fall the bloom spikes will emerge from the center of the plant, get ready for the show!

Orchid growers go through all sorts of trials and tribulations learning how to grow one type of orchid and then when they finally figure it out, they decide to start growing a different type of orchid. It is probably natural that our taste in orchids evolves over time. After all, if you look back at your recipes from several years ago you realize your ingredients and techniques have morphed over time... though you must be careful not to admit to a Louisiana native that you are now adding beans to the gumbo!

*Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera. They are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board. [sbottom15@hotmail.com](mailto:sbottom15@hotmail.com)*

The original article with complete photo layout can be found here: [ORCHIDS Magazine \(aos.org\)](http://ORCHIDS Magazine (aos.org))

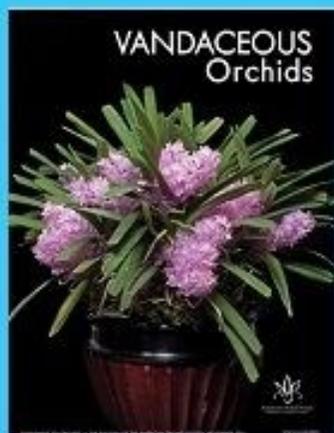
## The American Orchid Society Webinars

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.

# Webinars-Coming Attractions!



<b>When</b>	January 11, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	January 18, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 15, 2022 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 23, 2022 8:30pm EST Wednesday
<b>Topic</b>	Miltoniopsis	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	A Guide to Modern LED Lighting How to set up an indoor grow area	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
<b>Presenter</b>	Mark Whelan Retired Professor Multi-genera Orchid Grower	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Kelly McCracken Owner High Desert Orchids, Miniature Orchid Specialist	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer



# AOS Orchid Culture Day

Pour Your Coffee and Prepare Brunch!  
Enjoy a Day with these Delightful Speakers

Explore the Virtual World of Vandaceous Orchids

SATURDAY, January 29, 2022

Start Time 10 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

\$30 USD

Building on the 2021 Bodacious Vandaceous Orchids Magazine Supplement, this is an opportunity to learn more about the VANDA family of orchids.

Tune in to presentations by four distinguished speakers.

- 1) **Kim Fedderson** from *Fair Orchids*: Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids at Home
- 2) **Jason Fischer** from *Orchids Limited*: The Culture & History of *Vanda falcata* (formerly *Neofinetia*)
- 3) **Bob Fuchs** Pres. of *RF Orchids*: The Latest Trends in Vanda Hybridizing
- 4) **Brenda Oviatt** from *Botanica Ltd.*: Angraecoids - Conservation and Culture



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.



## Centennial Celebration at the Spring Members Meeting

Make plans now to attend this once in a lifetime event. Come meet and mingle with other orchid enthusiasts that support the mission of the AOS, **April 06-09, 2022**. Meet the office staff. Come hear what is happening in the AOS. Learn about the people who volunteer their time to this passion we all love. All AOS members are invited to attend committee and board meetings. Sit in on a [committee](#) meeting. Commit to a committee! Become a new volunteer! It's peak season in South Florida. Don't wait to book your [accommodations](#)! Explore the historic Biltmore hotel in Coral Gables. [Register now](#)



# Orchid Conservation Alliance

## Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.



Dracula



Dracula



Ventanas



Ventanas

*Dracula gigas* (L), *D. trigonopetala* (R)  
**Dracula Reserve, Ecuador**

*Dracula lemurella* (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)  
**La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia**

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see Orchids in the Wild<sup>®</sup>, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: [www.orchidconservationalliance.org](http://www.orchidconservationalliance.org)

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

Quiz answers:

- 1) c.
- 2) b.
- 3) e.
- 4) a.
- 5) d.

The Society meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 1pm, at the Spring Hill VFW Post 8681 18940 Drayton St. at County Line Rd

Enjoy great speakers, fantastic raffle prizes and beautiful orchids on display.

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