



Volume 28

Issue 2

February 2020

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THE KEIKI



Welcome to 2020!

Our February meeting will be on the 15th. Expert growers Miranda Orchids will talk to us about Brazillian Cattleyas. This promises to be a special program, so don't miss it!

Dues are due!

NCOS annual dues are due now. If you did not take care of this at our January meeting, please plan to give a check to Arlene at our February meeting. Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family living at the same address.

CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS/EVENTS FOR NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY FOR 2020

February 15th—Miranda Orchids—Brazilian Cattleyas

March 27th to 29th—NCOS Orchid Show

April 18th—Elections, and member plant sales

May 16th—James Stevenson, from Pinellas County—Native Orchids

June 20th—Glenn Gross

July 18th—Dave Goliath

August—AOS Seminar?

September—AOS Seminar?

October—Annual NCOS Auction

November—Annual picnic

December—holiday party

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Past President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Treasurer</u>	Pat Baig
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Pat Dupke
<u>Advisory Capacity</u>	Helen Battistrada
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Kara Ramsey

COMMITTEES

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Matt Riesz and Julie Smolka
<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Tim Smith
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Arlene Appelbaum, Carol VanderLaan
<u>Publicity</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Kara Ramsey
<u>Trips</u>	Sonia Terrelonge
<u>Webmaster</u> (Website set up by Ken Dunn)	Bob East
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

Mary Lou Mattana



People that signed up to bring food are:

Snacks:

- Sue Caparbi-Taylor
- Mary Jo Zollo
- Regina Epple
- Marie Tanaka
- Celeste Ogden

Drinks:

- Karen Taccard
- Celeste Ogden
- Coopers - h2o
- Jon Dragonswan

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Pat Baig



Opening balance	\$11,081.61
Total receipts (raffle, etc.):	\$794.00
Total disbursements	\$464.00
Current Balance :	\$11,411.61



President's Message

Good day everyone

WOW!!!! What a terrific show table we had!!! The cattleyas that were there were just absolutely magnificent! Thank you Todd, Matt and others for bringing in some special plants!

Our January meeting was just packed with information on getting our plants ready for judging and just how to properly stake them up for our own personal use. With all the information that Laura Newton gave us on preparing your plants for the best possible display we should have some award winning plants at our March show. I am certainly hoping our members 'spruce' up their plants to bring to our next meeting in February for the members show table.

Our February meeting speaker will be Miranda Orchids who we have been waiting a long time to come back to see us. I for one am certainly looking forward to seeing the plants of South America. This should be a fascinating program for everyone. There will be plants available to buy from Miranda Orchids.

We are still seeking volunteers our March show. Please check in with Mary-Lou Mattana to sign up. Last year we had a fantastic crew helping us in the kitchen. Hopefully some of those wonderful people will come back again this year to help in the kitchen. We still have time slots (only 2 hours) open for both the registration and raffle tables. There will be a mass emailing of what is still needed sent out in early February. Watch for the lists and volunteer your time to make our society stronger.

See everybody on Saturday, February 15th. Get there by noon so you have plenty of time to get a choice orchid from Miranda Orchids. The meeting will start promptly at 1 o'clock. Until then happy growing

S

Attention, Members, WE NEED YOU!!!

Our society depends upon volunteers for everything we do. In particular, we need officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President (who coordinates our speakers), Treasurer and Secretary. Without these officers we CANNOT CONTINUE TO EXIST! Our current slate of officers have been in their positions for two years, having volunteered to continue for a second year. But this year we must elect NEW OFFICERS. The jobs of each officer are not a huge burden, and they're a great way to get to know people. Please, please, please consider volunteering for one of these board positions, as well as several other committee positions. Elections are coming up in April, so speak to Steve Mattana if you're willing to help!



**Membership Notes
for February**

From Arlene Appelbaum

Our January meeting was attended by over 40 people. We signed up three new members to our society. Please welcome Patricia Moltedo, Theresa Sinnott, and Tiffanie Swigart to our group.

41 people renewed or paid their membership for 2020. Please remember that a single membership is \$20.00 and a couples or family dues structure is \$25,00 for the calendar year January 1 through December 31. Our roster now shows 122 members in our society. That is a truly remarkable number.

A reminder that anyone can order a name badge through me for \$13.00.

We hope to see you all at our February 15th meeting.

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!



NCOS ORCHID QUIZ

Answers on last page

-
1. *How many native orchids does Alaska have?*
 - A. 0
 - B. 1-15
 - C. 16-30
 - D. Over 30

 2. *Usually in early may, this orchid is one of the first to bloom in Alaska*
 - A. Sparrow's Egg Lady Slipper
 - B. Fairy Slipper
 - C. The Northern Bog Orchid
 - D. Palomino Lady's Slipper

 3. *The Northern Bog Orchid (Platanthera Obtusata) is pollinated by*
 - A. Mosquitoes
 - B. Bees
 - C. Moths
 - D. Birds

 4. *The Sparrows Egg Lady Slipper is one of the few members of the orchid family to live in*
 - A. The Aleutian Islands
 - B. Interior Alaska
 - C. The Arctic Circle
 - D. Kodiak Island

NCOS Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2020

By Kara Warnock



Steve Mattana welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the new year. As you may know the club is coming up on election time and all of the elected positions are open – President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasure, and Secretary. We would like to see some volunteers step forward to take on the responsibility of these positions. All of the available elected positions are quite easy and do not take up too much of your time. The Second Vice President is responsible for contacting orchid vendors, from an available list, to see if they might be available to present to us on the third Saturday of the month. Celeste Ogden, who has been handling this position, already has speakers lined up for the club thru July. The job of the First Vice President is to make sure that the fees for the VFW hall are paid on time and to make sure that our appointments are ready for any events that we have coming up. The Secretary is responsible for taking notes via voice recording and then typing them out to present to the President at the upcoming board meeting for approval. Finally, the Treasure is responsible for keeping track of the amount of money coming in to and going out of the club's account each month. At the most some of these positions take an hour to an hour a half a month of your time to complete your duties. That is really not a whole lot of one's time when you think about it. Please see Steve if you are interested in one of these positions.

One thing that the club decided it is going to do this year is to donate to an orchid conservatory. As you may know there are many species of orchids that are facing extinction due to habitat loss. The club has decided to donate to an organization that will help preserve native habitats so that the orchids we love still have areas to exist in the wild. We have decided to dedicate 1% of the club's gross income (approximately \$120) to donate towards preserving native orchid habitats.

Jeff Rundell discussed the current efforts to organize our upcoming annual orchid show to be held on March 28th and 29th. Sign-up sheets were available for members to volunteer their time to help with various tasks associated with the show. For those that participated with the show last year we ask that you consider volunteering your time again

this year, if possible. Jeff has graciously volunteered to help take care of the majority of the display for this year's show. We are planning to put together more of a natural display this year. We are in need of items such as Spanish moss, cushion or pillow reindeer moss lichen, driftwood, bark, or other natural materials to help round out the orchid display. If you have any of these materials to donate towards the display please get them to Jeff.

One of the different things that we are looking to implement at this year's orchid show is etched glass awards for "Best of Show" categories (i.e. *Cymbidium*, *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, etc.). The awards cost \$40 each and we would be looking for individuals or groups of individuals to donate money to help sponsor an award. Another idea that we plan on exploring to help generate money for the club was to create simple floral arrangements using cut *Dendrobium* flowers. These arrangements would be available for sale at the show for \$5-6 each. The idea being the more revenue the club builds the more money we have to play with in order to bring in "special vendors" from out of state to speak with our club.

Steve provided our financial report on our club's treasury, which is currently in good shape. After taking care of all the expenses associated with the 2019 orchid show the club saw a profit of \$1,117. During the fall auction we made \$2,340.58. The fertilizer that the club sold from Norman Fang brought in \$142 for the club. The current balance of our club's checking account after all expenses stands at \$11,081.

Arlene Appelbaum provided the club with an update on membership. The club currently has a total of 122 registered members. At today's meeting we had 38 members signed in and 3 new members join our organization. As a friendly reminder annual membership dues were due at today's meeting.

The bounty of beautiful orchids featured on our show table for this month were discussed.

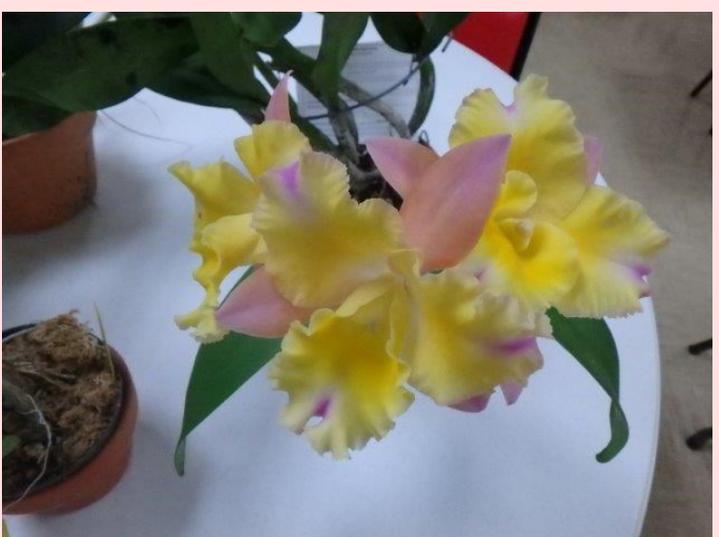
Our speaker for this month was Laura Newton who gave a presentation on how to get your orchids ready for AOS judging and shows.

The raffle was drawn and the meeting adjourned.

Show Table, January 2020

Plant Name	Grower
Vanda Hybrid	Connie Chase
Phal. Orchidview Gold Dust x H.P. Norton 'Orchidview'	Connie Chase
Rlc. Dal's Horizon	Dan Grant
Rlc. Blanche Aisaka	Dan Grant
Cleisostoma arietinum	Jeff Rundell
Bct. Booth Lee 'Venice'	Jeff Rundell
Blc. Fuchs Orange Nugget 'Kumquat'	Jeff Rundell
Rth. Young Min Orange 'Golden Satisfaction' AM/AOS	Jeff Rundell
Cattleya Hybrid	Jeff Rundell
Mtssa. Shelob 'Tolkien'	Julie Smolka
Den. Fire Wings	Matt Riesz
Den. Dr. Uthai x Den. Burana Royal	Matt Riesz
Blc. Pastoral 'Innocence' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz
C. Mem. Peter Von Scholl	Matt Riesz
Cochleanthes aromatica	Matt Riesz
Bsn. Playa Adicora	Matt Riesz
C. Fire Magic 'Krull Smith' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz
Rlc. Good News 'Doris' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz
Phal. Zheng Min Parakeet 'Yaphon'	Steve Mattana
Phal. Lyndon Gold Ring 'Montclair Canary'	Steve Mattana
Phal. Joy Spring Canary 'Taipei' AM/AOS	Steve Mattana
Angraecum sesquipedale h.v. bosseri	Sue Caparbi-Taylor
Den. Royal Wings	Todd Cleaver
Vanda Sawanan Pink	Todd Cleaver
Vanda Sawanan Pink	Todd Cleaver
Lc. Melody Fair 'Carol' HCC/AOS	Todd Cleaver
Bc. Mount Hood 'Mary' AM/AOS	Todd Cleaver





In the future the society will provide a box at each monthly meeting for us to collect groceries for those in need all year round. Please bring food items such as listed below to the meeting, and put them in the box. It will be donated to People Helping People from NCOS.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

In Hernando County

WEEKEND BLESSINGS FOR KIDS

*SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS	INDIVIDUAL CEREAL PACKS
*CANNED CHICKEN/TUNA	CEREAL BARS
*DEVILED HAM	RAISINS
*TUNA/CHICKEN SALAD W/ CRACKERS	NUTS
*BAKED BEANS	APPLESAUCE
*VIENNA SAUSAGE	PUDDING SNACK PACKS
*MAC/BEEF	CANNED SOUPS
*RAVIOLI WITH MEAT	100% JUICE BOXES/POUCHES
*CHILI	SHELF MILK BOXES

People Helping People in Hernando, Inc.—a 501©(3) charitable organization

Dedicated to providing basic necessities to those in need

PO Box 6182, Spring Hill, FL 34611

***items most needed**



Attention, Members!

Our annual orchid show is coming up in March, and we are in urgent need of several people to lead and participate in the Show Committee. The committee is responsible for organizing the show, interacting with our vendors, designing and setting up the orchid exhibit, and generally handling the details of our show. We have plenty of guidance to show you what needs to be done, and many hands make light work. This is a very enjoyable and social activity, so please consider volunteering. Your society needs you! Without you there is NO SHOW!

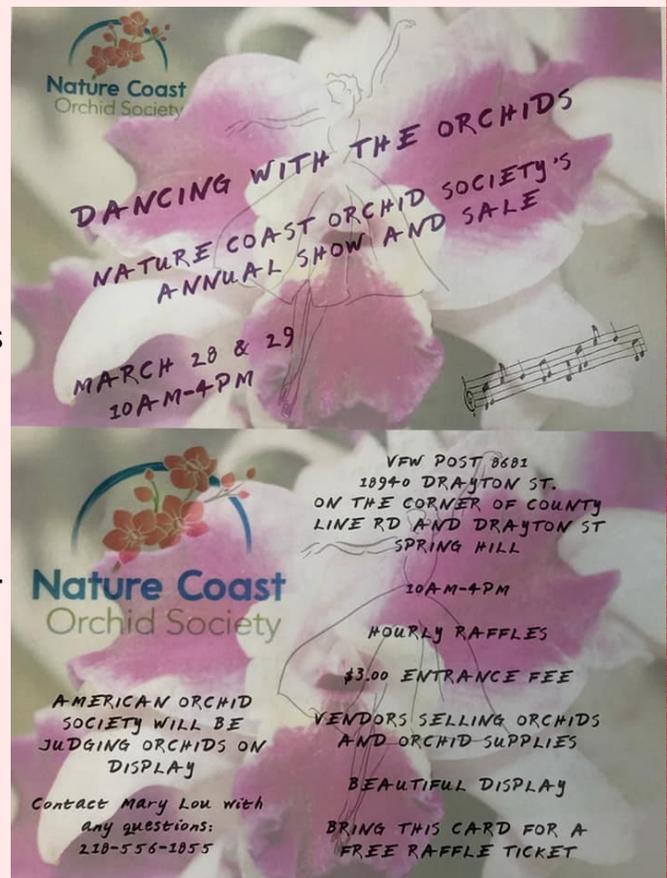
Please contact Mary Lou Mattana, Steve Mattana or Matt Riesz if you can help.

We will also need your plants in bloom—as many as you can provide. Now is the time to start grooming them for the show, as per the instructions given in our January meeting by Laura Newton of the American Orchid Society (AOS). Our show will be judged by the AOS this year. That means AOS judges will be giving out first, second and third place ribbons in seventeen classes (types) of orchids. They will also award five trophies:

- Best Orchid in Show by a Commercial Grower
- Best Orchid in Show by an NCOS Member
- Best Cattleya Alliance
- Best Phalaenopsis Alliance
- Best Dendrobium Alliance

After awarding the ribbons and trophies, the judges will be pulling exceptional plants for AOS judging, where they will be considered for AOS awards such as AM/AOS, HCC/AOS, etc.

So plan to bring your blooming plants and hope you all go home with some ribbons for your beauties!



JANUARY SPEAKER NOTES

By Kara Warnock



Our first speaker of the new year was accredited AOS judge Laura Newton who gave a discussion on How to Get Your Plants Ready for a Show. Laura helped provide insight to our questions such as, “What do the judges want to see?” and “What is the best way to bring my plants in for judging?” It is best to begin looking at your plants early well in advance of an upcoming show or judging event to evaluate issues that they may need a little help with in order to look their best.

The leaves of our plant account for a good percentage of the plant as a whole. One thing that the judges can be sticklers about when judging a plant is any noticeable problems with your leaves. The first thing you want to do is remove any dead leaves that are still attached to the plant. To do this simply grip the dead leaves at the base of the plant or closest to the pseudobulb and give a gentle tug in order to detach the leaf. You also want to address any problems such as dead spots on your leaves by removing the affected tissue. Depending upon the plant, either cut off the affected portion of the leaf or remove the leaf in its entirety. If you have to cut a portion of your leaf to remove a blemished area try to mimic the shape of the leaf with your cut rather than cutting the leaf off square. By mimicking the shape of the leaf and rounding your cut you just might be able to fool the judges that there was never anything wrong with the leaf. You want to keep a couple of shears on hand for use when making cuts on your orchids. Remember to sterilize your cutting tools between individual plants to avoid spreading disease. Laura likes to use the heat from a blowtorch to sterilize her clippers between plants. Over the years she has found that heating each blade of the clippers for 15 seconds per side to get rid of most diseases and viruses. Finally, you want the leaves of your plant to look pristine and devoid of spotting from calcium or hard water deposits. Laura’s trick for this is to use an old sock and some lemon juice to remove those pesky spots – an idea that she learned from her friend and fellow *Bulbophyllum* grower Bill Thoms. Simply cut the toe off of an old sock, flip the sock inside out so that you are using the rough textured side, dip the sock in some lemon juice, and gently rub the leaf (making sure to get the top and bottom sides) to remove any spotting. When rubbing the leaves you want to position your other hand under the leaf to help provide support and prevent the leaf from cracking. Take care when rubbing the leaves not to damage the outermost cuticle layer of the leaf as this can make them susceptible to fungus and bacterial infections. If you do not have any lemon juice you can also use milk or even Sprite to clean off the surface of your leaves. However, do not use the commercial leaf shine products marketed to orchid growers as the judges are not a fan. Once you have cleaned the spots from your leaves you can use the outside or soft surface side of another sock to buff the surface giving a natural shine to the leaf.

When bringing your plant in for judging it is just as important to address the plant’s pot and potting media as it is the plant itself. Let’s face it, life usually gets in the way and our poor orchid plant did not get repotted when it needed to. Laura has a solution for that too. She will top dress her orchid pots with fresh media to hide the fact that they are in need of repotting. First pull out any weeds present in the pot using tweezers then add new media (i.e. bark or sphagnum) directly over top of the old media to hide any imperfections. This psyches out the judges into thinking that our plants are beautifully grown and well maintained. When bringing your plant in for judging especially for the larger orchid shows presentation counts. Take the time and make the effort to ensure your plant presents at its best. Place your plastic or clay growing pot inside of a decorative pot to really show your orchid off. A pro tip, when traveling with your plant to large shows place your address label on the underside of your orchid pot to deter others from walking off with your plant.

As your orchid plants are coming into bloom you want to stay vigilant and stake the floral spikes early and often to create the best floral displays. For staking her spikes Laura likes to create a hooked bend (or loop) using some wire to hold, but not clamp down, the spike in place. Frequent monitoring and adjustment of the height of the stake as the

spike continues to grow will provide the best display of flowers at maturity. The use of natural materials and floral tape to stake your spikes will blend in more amongst the vegetation of your plant and be less distracting to the judges. Items like butterfly clips albeit pretty are often colorful and will distract from the beauty of the flowers. Once spikes have started to form it is important to remember that they will always grow towards the light source that they see. Therefore, it is very important if you have to move your plant for any reason after spikes have formed that you place it back facing the same direction so as not to confuse it. If you rotate your plant during this critical time that the flowers are beginning to open you will have flowers that are facing every which direction because you have changed its light source. To avoid this potential problem, consider marking your pot with chalk or another means to mark which way the plant was orientated towards the light. This is especially true of Phalaenopsis flowers. If you do not keep Phals orientated towards a single light source as the flowers are opening you will not achieve that overlapping shingle effect that is desirable in creating their cascading floral display. Also, remember when preparing your orchids to cut off any old inflorescences from previous blooms and remove old, dried floral sheaths.

Use your powers of observation to monitor your plants and correct any problems before they have a chance to develop. As an example, for species orchids like *Rhynchostylis gigantea* that like to form grape-like clusters of flowers that can become tucked underneath the leaves you might have to use a stake to help pull the spike away from the leaves. Simple corrections such as placing a small stake adjacent to the spike will move the flowers out and away from the leaves allowing one to view both sides of the inflorescence. Another issue that you might encounter is the crowding of flower buds prior to opening on clustered inflorescences such as those of bifoliate Cattleyas. Laura utilizes Styrofoam egg cartons or cardboard to create spacers between adjacent flower buds and prevent flower buds from forming and opening on top of one another. Her technique is to cut a “V” or “U” shape notch out of the aforementioned materials and gently wedge it between two flower stems giving each flower plenty of room to open up. By close observation of your orchids daily you are able to get to them soon enough and address problems before something terrible happens. Preparing your orchids for judging or a show is really just a bit of trickery and convincing the judges that you are the best orchid grower.



Many thanks to Sue Bottom for allowing us to share her article from the St. Augustine Orchid Society with our group

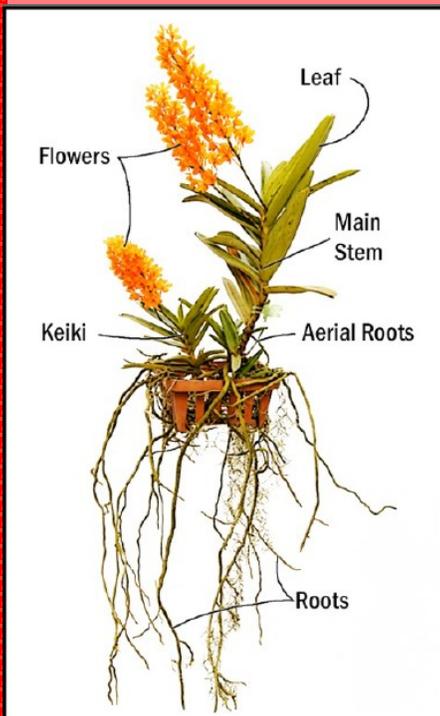
St. Augustine Orchid Society

www.staugorchidsociety.org

Orchid Plant Parts and Why They Matter

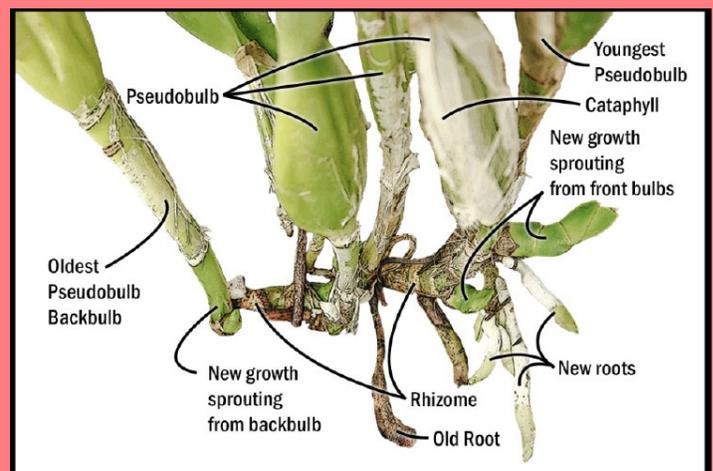
by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@hotmail.com

It doesn't really matter if you can remember all of the names of orchid plant parts, but it is to your benefit to understand how these parts function. We'll talk about all the basic orchid parts to help focus your attention on things to look for when you are looking at your plants.

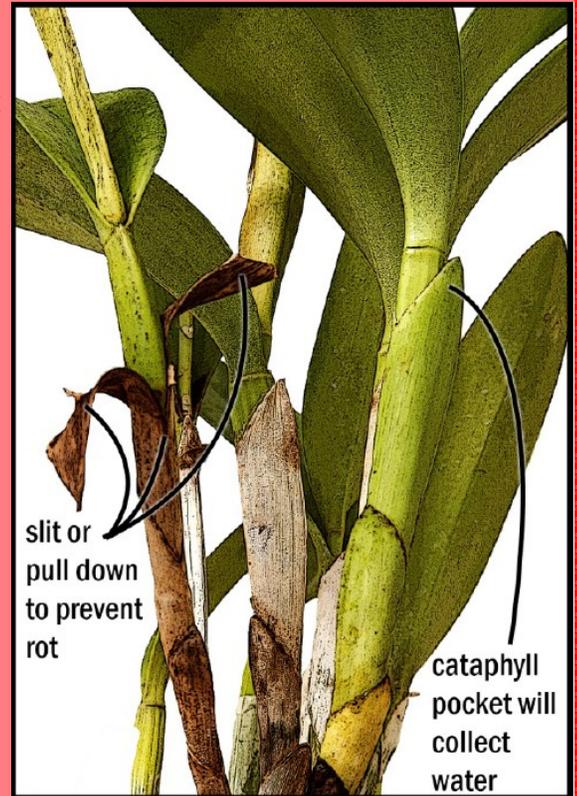


Orchid growth habits fall into two basic groups, the monopodial orchids that grow vertically and the sympodial orchids that grow laterally. **Monopodial** orchids like phalaenopsis and vandas grow upward from a single stem. Orchids with this growth habit grow upward from season to season from a single vegetative shoot. Leaves, roots and flower spikes sprout from nodes along the stem. Normally the plant will lose its leaves from the bottom up and continue to grow new leaves from the terminal or apical tip while making new roots along the stem. Monopodial orchids do not have fleshy pseudobulbs for storage of food and water like the sympodial orchids, so they require more frequent watering and feeding. Vandas often produce a **keiki** (KAY-kee) a Hawaiian term for baby that is used to describe a plantlet that sprouts from a mature plant. Keikis are a great way to share your plants with friends.

Sympodial orchids like cattleyas, dendrobiums and oncidiums branch outward horizontally rather than grow vertically like monopodial orchids. Sympodial orchids grow laterally and produce a new shoot along a rhizome that develops into a stem with roots and leaves and eventually produces flowers. This growth process is repeated in a continuous cycle. Sympodial orchids have pseudobulbs that grow along a **rhizome** (RYE-zohm), a root-bearing stem the apex of which progressively sends up leafy shoots. When repotting, the rhizome should be at or just above the potting media. There is a greater potential for rot if the rhizome is buried in the potting mix. A **pseudobulb** (SOO-doh-bulb) is the thickened portion of a stem used when discussing cattleyas, oncidiums and many other sympodial orchids. A cane, used when discussing dendrobiums is similar to a pseudobulb but is much more stalk-like in



appearance. The pseudobulbs and canes are like the humps on camels, storing food and water to sustain the plant during droughty conditions. They perform a vital function to the plant even when leafless. **Front bulbs** are the pseudobulbs in the younger part of the plant. The front bulbs are the actively growing part of your plant and it is from these new growths that new flowers will emerge. The **back bulbs** are the pseudobulbs on the older part of the plant. The back bulbs are often without leaves but as long as they are still green, they continue to provide nourishment to the plant. Back bulbs can be used to propagate new plants from the original plant when new growths are encouraged to sprout from blind or dormant **eyes**, the incipient buds of vegetative growth. There are at least two eyes on each pseudobulb so that if one eye or lead becomes damaged, a new pseudobulb can emerge from the other eye. The **cataphyll** (KAT-a-fill) is an undeveloped leaf that forms around the base of the pseudobulb and matures to form a papery sheath along the length of the pseudobulb. When the pseudobulb is growing, the cataphyll provides some structural support and protects the tender new growth from mechanical and insect damage. Cataphylls can sometimes form pockets where water can accumulate and bacterial action can cause the bulb to rot so the pockets should be slit or the cataphyll pulled down so water will drain freely. Once the growth is mature and hardened, the dried cataphylls can be removed before they become hiding place for scale and other sucking insects.



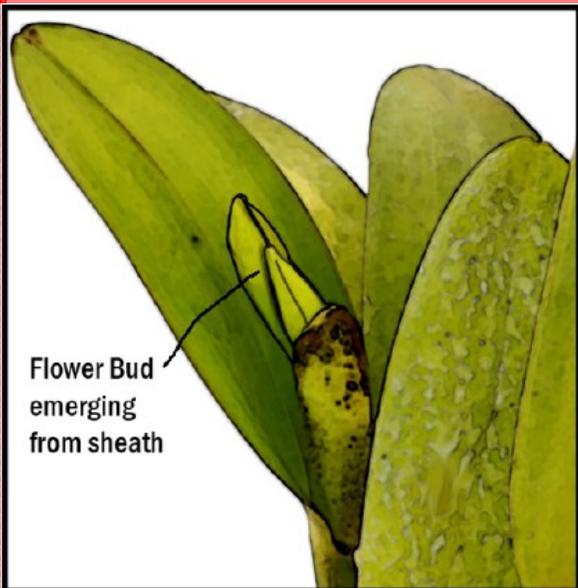
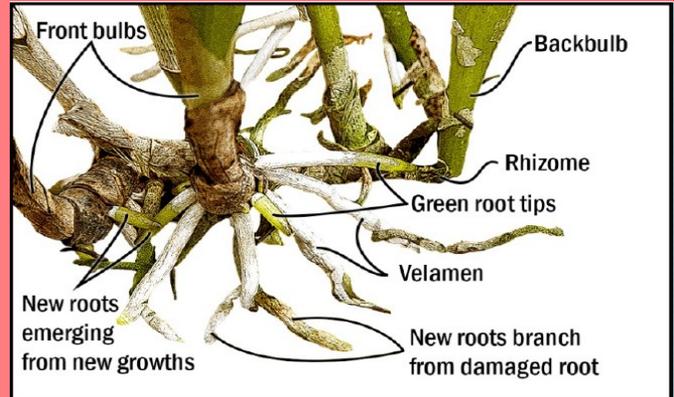
Orchid leaves vary from the thin leaved oncidiums and catasetums, the fleshy phalaenopsis to the hard dendrobium and cattleya leaves that have waxy covering that help minimize water loss. Cattleyas with a single leaf are called **unifoliate**s and cattleyas with two (and occasionally three) leaves are called **bifoliate**s. Unlike the unifoliate, bifoliate cattleyas should be repotted only when they are growing new roots. **Stomata** (sto-Mah-tah) are pores on the lower surface of the leaf epidermis through which the plant breathes. The stomata are mostly closed during the day to prevent water loss by transpiration and open at night when temperatures are lower and humidity is higher. This means that orchids are not



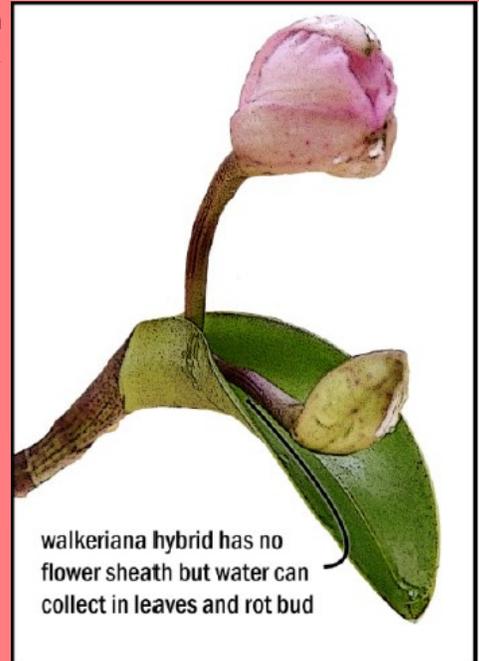
good candidates for foliar feeding. If specialty foliar sprays such as those

containing minor or trace elements designed to be absorbed through the leaves are to be used, they are best applied to the undersides of the leaves in the predawn hours.

Orchid roots consist of an inside wiry filament and thick sponge like covering called **velamen** that helps prevent water loss and aids in absorption of water and mineral nutrients. Actively growing orchid roots have green (and sometimes reddish) tips, the longer the green tips the faster the roots are growing. The white velamen layer follows a few days behind the root's growth tip. The emergence of fresh roots tells you your plant is going into the growth mode, if it needs to be repotted the time is now (or maybe you should have done it last week when the new growth was swelling up before the green tips emerged).

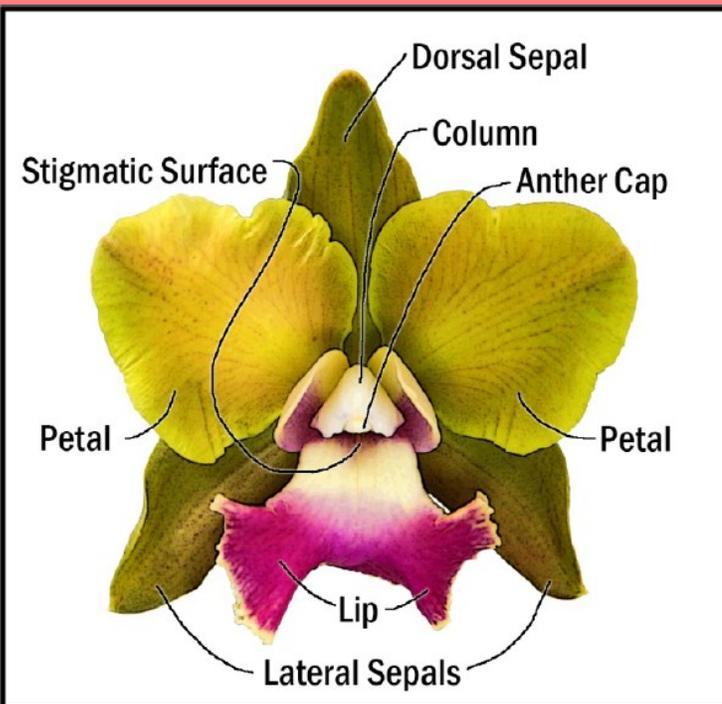
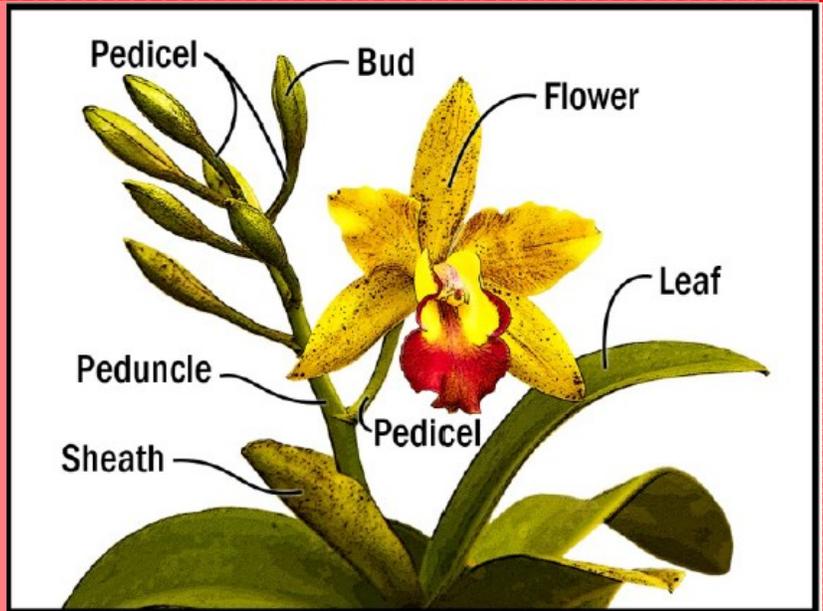


On cattleyas, flower buds emerge from a **sheath**, a modified leaf that encloses an emerging inflorescence. Some cattleyas bloom soon after the growth matures and the sheath is formed (said to bloom on the green sheaths) and others rest for several months before blooming (said to bloom on dried sheaths). Sheaths should be watched carefully. If the color changes to yellow or brown, the sheath should be carefully opened and pulled down so



water can drain freely. Otherwise condensation inside the sheath from day-night temperature changes can cause the flower buds to rot in the sheath. Some cattleyas like those with walkeriana in the background don't bloom from sheaths. If you allow water to accumulate in the cataphyll extending above the leaf base, it can rot the emerging bud.

The **inflorescence** (in-floor-ESS-ents) is the flowering part of the plant. Typical parts of the inflorescence include the peduncle, pedicel and flower itself. On a cattleya, the inflorescence consists of a **peduncle** (pe-DUNK-ul), the stalk of an inflorescence that arises from the bulb, and the **pedicel** (PED-i-sel), the stalk of an individual flower that branches from the peduncle. Some Orchids like *R. digbyana* have a long and twisted pedicel so the flower is normally not well displayed unless it has been staked to provide structural support. *Phalaenopsis* bloom from a **raceme** (ray-SEEM), a type of inflorescence with short-stalked flowers borne on a elongated stem that bears the pedicels and flowers. Racemes can be upright, arched or even pendent. Those of *phalaenopsis* are most often upright and arched and should be staked during development to make sure the flowers are presented to their best advantage.



Orchid flowers have three outer and three inner flower parts. The outermost flower parts are the sepals, the dorsal sepal at the top of the flower and the two lateral sepals at the bottom of the flower. The innermost flower parts are the petals, consisting of the two petals on either side of the flower and the **lip** or **labellum** usually at the base of the flower. The lip is a modified petal and often the most striking part of the flower. It is very different from the other two petals and plays an important role in pollination, often serving as a landing platform for insects. The **column** is a flashy structure that is in the middle of the flower and consists of fused reproductive parts, the male **anther** that bears the **pollinia** or pollen pellets and the female receptive organ, the **stigma**, a shiny depression

filled with a sticky fluid, You don't need to know much mor about this x-rated material unless you feel compelled to carry a toothpick around with you while you are admiring your orchid flowers. At that point, you'll have to give yourself over to a higher power as you orchid addiction has escalated!

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

[AOS Members: February Webinar](#)

Tuesday, February 11th, 2020
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Learn about the labiate cattleyas and how to grow them, with Art Chadwick.



[Greenhouse Chat](#)

Tuesday, February 18th, 2020
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM EDT

Orchid Q&A with Ron McHatton



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- A New Lighting Option for Indoor Orchid Growing: T5 HO LED Replacements for Fluorescent Grow Lights by A'na Sa'tara
- *Liparis liliifolia* - A "lily" of an Orchid by Soraya Cates Parr
- *Lindleyana* - *×Cattlianthe dabeibaensis* - A New Intergeneric Natural Hybrid in Colombia by Ruben Sauleda, Andrea Niessen and Juan Carlos Uribe
- Book Review - Orchids as Aphrodisiac, Medicine or Food

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By Celeste Ogden



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Answers to quiz

1. *D. Over 30*
2. *B. Fairy Slipper*
3. *A. Mosquitoes*
4. *C. Arctic Circle*