



# THE KEIKI



★★★★★ **Coming in September** ★★★★★

Volume 29  
Issue 8  
August 2021

Our September meeting will feature Tony Millett and Joshua Jones, talking to us about Cattleyas. There will be plants and some special ceramic pots for sale. Members will NOT be able to sell plants at this meeting.

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## President's Message

From Steve Mattana

Good day everyone

As you all know, I had to leave early on Saturday. However, I did get a report from some of our officers. It was an incredibly well spoken and informative meeting with Bret and Ruth from Accent Orchids.

There will be a board meeting August 18th at the VFW @1pm. There will NOT be a society meeting in August. I'm requesting all officers and trustees attend this board meeting, as well as anyone who wants to volunteer for our upcoming auction and Christmas party. These are the two main topics that we will be talking about at the board meeting. Your ideas and help are most welcome.

September is going to be a great meeting! We will have Tony Millett who is an AOS judge, and Joshua Jones. They both will be talking about Cattleya's. Joshua will have some fantastic ceramic pots for sale! They are beautiful!

The October auction will take place on the third Saturday of October 16. More details to come soon. So, if you have plants that you no longer want or, you have divided your plants to donate to the auction it would be greatly appreciated. Your donations are helpful and keeping our club alive so that we can do very cool and exciting things for everyone. That includes bringing in guest speakers and being able to buy plants. We will be buying plants from Krull Smith and other special sources for our auction. With that being said there will be some very nice plants on the auction table. Things to think about for October.

More things to talk about in October: our holiday end of year dinner party. The party will take place on October 30 at the VFW club. More details to come very very soon. The food will be coming from Publix. That will include turkey and ham. Side dishes to be determined.

In the next newsletter I will have much more information on the auction and our party.

Until then happy growing

Steve

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**OFFICERS**

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

**COMMITTEES**

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

very informative on how to successfully grow vandas and get them to bloom. Don't forget we are not meeting this month, take the time to spend with you orchids.

**Vandas**

What is a vanda? What should I know before buying a vanda? How do I care for this type of orchid? These are questions you might be asking yourself if you have just delved into the amazing world of orchids or even if you just haven't heard of a vanda.

**What is a vanda?** A vanda is a genus of orchids uniquely grown in the hobbyists backyard. They are a monopodial orchid or, an orchid that grows on a main stem in an upright position continually until the stem halts growth. By the time the main stem has quit growing you should have a large stem full of younger plants or kei-kis. This type of orchid, monopodial, has the potential to keep growing for many many years even out living their caretakers. This depends on care and also the genetics of the orchid.

**What should I know before buying a vanda?** Vandas are most of the time seen growing bare root in a basket or on a hook. In southern Florida it is common to see them mounted on trees in hobbyist's yards. So what does this mean, well it means this orchid will dry out very quickly and will need watering multiple times a day. Vandas and other closely related orchids are higher light orchids, some species even being able to take full sun most of the day. This is something to consider before buying this type of orchid because they will not bloom without proper lighting.

**How do I care for this type of orchid?** As mentioned this orchid is often grown bare root and will need waterings multiple times a day in our hottest summer days. We need to keep in mind that during the hottest and brightest hours of the day we should not water our vandas. Even though it might seem like we are cooling them off, we can actually be causing concentrated sunburn where the water stands on the leaves. This is because it can act like a magnifying glass intensifying the sun's rays. You might be asking the question: how much water is enough water? Well last meeting Bret spoke about a very important part of watering vandas. They, like many other orchids, have a "sponge" that covers the roots, this is called velamen. The velamen brings in the water and kinda stores it while the root is bringing the water into the orchid. Remember how vandas are monopodial? They don't have pseudobulbs that hold in water so they often have thick velamen that will keep water kinda like a sponge. What happens when you put a dry sponge in water? Well it takes a moment to soak up the water right? Vanda roots are just like this, you need to water for about 5-10 minutes at a time or until the roots are green. Now let's talk about lighting. Vandas take high light throughout the day, 6-8 hours of high light to full sun is ideal for this one. Remember if you just bought the orchid especially when purchasing from an online vendor you most likely do not know what type of sun the orchid is receiving, and it is best to in general put them in low light. You can gradually move it into higher light to the spot you'd like to keep it. Summertime is not the time to adjust the orchid to higher light because the sun is very strong during these months and even gradually moving it, it could still burn. Winter is the best time to transition an orchid into higher light. Vandas will need a few hours of full morning sun and a few hours of full evening sun with the afternoon consisting of high but protected light. Vandas are heavy feeders, feed them weekly with a weak ratio of your favorite fertilizer, Norman's Nutrients sometimes offered at our monthly meetings is a great option if you do not already have a favorite. Have fun growing your orchids, especially your amazing vandas!

**Corbin's Corner**



Last meeting we hosted Bret and Ruth Ullery of Accent Orchids in St. Pete, they spoke about how to grow vandas successfully in our climate. The Ullery's brought in some amazing orchids of all kinds, both species and some incredible hybrids.

Bret spoke about some key growing tips that we often do not even think about. Describing water quality in his own well and how it affects his own plants in his growing environment, we are able to think about how our own water quality can be affecting our plants. Touching base on one of my biggest vanda issues is the dark build up often on the lower portion of the leaves that ends up staying wet too long and rotting away the lower leaves. Using a fungicide like Cleary's 3336 and other systemic fungicides this can be held back. Thanks to our valued member and Past President Jeff Rundell we touched base on one of the issues we are experiencing in our vandas if proper precautions are not taken, Thai Crud or Guignardia. We also talked about the heavy fungicides used to keep this fungus at bay. This meeting was

## NCOS Show Table July 17th, 2021

Plant Name	Grower
Paph. primulinum	Delia Dunn
Brassia Sunset Glam 'Phelps Farm'	Ro Wenz
Phal. LD's Bear Queen 'Wilson'	Matt Riesz
Lc. Mishima Luster 'Jean' FCC/AOS	Ken Mort
Mokara Salaya Blue	Ken Mort
Epi. ciliare	Delia Dunn
Galeopetalum Arlene Armour 'Conering'	Ro Wenz
Phal. tetraspis	Matt Riesz
Stellis guerrerensis	Matt Riesz
Bc. Waianae Leopard 'Ching Hua' HCC/AOS	Matt Riesz
Vanda Darres' Golden Heritage	Matt Riesz
Vanda Cherry Blossom	Susan Kimmel
Bc. Hippodamia 'Hunabu'	Ken Mort
Neofinetia falcata	Ken Mort
C. warneri h.f. coerulea 'Suzuki'	Jeff Rundell
Bl. Petite Stars	Matt Riesz
Miltassia Olmec 'Kanno' HCC/AOS	Susan Kimmel
Encyleyvola Jairak Canary	Matt Riesz





**Membership Notes  
for May**

*by Arlene Appelbaum*

Our July meeting boasted much success as we welcomed 7 new people to our group. Our membership roster now totals 139 which includes 131 paid, 5 life, and 3 honorary members.

Remember, there will not be an August general meeting, but we will resume in September.

For those who have bought and paid for membership badges, I am holding them. They may be picked up at the membership table at our next meeting. For those of you who would like to purchase one, the cost is \$7.50. Please see either Arty or myself .

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

By Yvette Lewis

**Current Report as of 7/31/2021:**

Prior bal. as of 6/30/2021:	\$9,840.64
Total receipts (raffle, etc.):	\$3,021.80
Total disbursements:	<u>\$(510.00)</u>
Bank bal. as of 7/31/2021:	\$12,352.44
Outstanding Checks:	<u>(\$179.25)</u>
Cash On Hand 7/31/2021:	<u>\$12,173.19</u>

1. Vanilla orchids are the primary source of vanilla flavoring and is primarily grown in
  - A. Mexico
  - B. Canada
  - C. Madagascar
  - D. A & C
2. What temperature does the vanilla orchid prefer?
  - A. 40-60 degrees
  - B. 60-70 degrees
  - C. 70-80 degrees
  - D. 80-85 degrees
3. How large do the flowers on the vanilla orchid grow?
  - A. 4 inches
  - B. 6 inches
  - C. 10 inches
  - D. 12 inches
4. Why is the vanilla not a good houseplant?
  - A. Indoor humidity not adequate
  - B. Good air circulation
  - C. Light requirements
  - D. Family too loud
5. How to plant a vanilla orchid
  - A. In a container with drainage
  - B. Using fir bark and soil
  - C. Stake plant for upward growth training
  - D. All of the above

**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!**



Lc. Mishima Luster 'Jean' FCC-AOS



Eyy. Jirak Cnary



Stellis guerrerensis



Phal. LD's Bear Queen 'Wilson'



Paph. primulinum



Miltassia Olmec 'Kanno' HCC-AOS

## July Meeting Minutes

Steve Mattana started our monthly meeting off with a reminder of upcoming events. As a reminder there will be NO meeting next month in August. Our club auction will be coming up October 30<sup>th</sup>, we are currently looking for and taking donations of plants to be sold at the auction. For our September meeting we will have two guest speakers. The first one will be AOS judge Tony Millett, who will discuss *Cattleya* species and hybrids and why we grow them. The second speaker will be Joshua Jones from Jacksonville, FL who will speak about *What do I do with my Cattleya now?*

Steve provided a treasury report. After paying the monthly fee for our storage unit for the next four months the club's balance in our checking account is right around \$9,600.

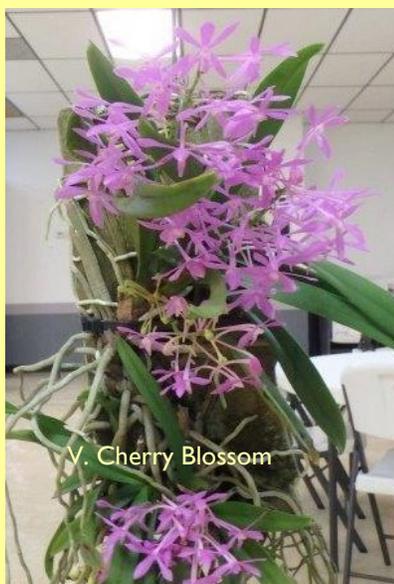
Arlene Appelbaum provided an update on membership and the club welcomed a total of 9 new members to our organization.

Jeff provided an update on the collection of orchids and other rare plants donated to our society in honor of Gary Gethen after his unexpected passing. The society has entered into an agreement with the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens regarding the care and sale of Gary's legacy plants. The botanical gardens are supplying the greenhouse, care of and potential customers for purchasing of the plants. The profits from the sale of these plants is being split amongst Gary's estate, the botanical gardens and the club. There are approximately 100 of Gary's legacy plants still available for purchase. For any plants that do not get sold at the botanical gardens they will be coming to the club in October to be sold at our auction, with the profits raised being split between organizations. The gardens are open on Saturdays and Mondays from 9-12 for those interested in plant sales.

Matt Riesz would like to remind those paid members who did not receive an emailed copy of The Keiki to please check your email address that the club has on file with membership registration. There were a few "bad" emails on this month's mailing list and copies of the newsletter for those individuals were marked as undeliverable.

Our speaker this month was Bret Ullery from Accent Orchids who gave a discussion on *Vanda* orchids.

The orchids featured on our show table were discussed, the raffle was drawn and the meeting adjourned.



## Speaker notes—July 2021

Our speaker this month was Bret Ullery from Accent Orchids, who gave a discussion on how to grow Vanda orchids. Vandas can be classified into three types based on the shape of their leaves: strap-leaved, terete, and semi-terete. Strap-leaved vandas have broader, flat leaves while terete vandas have rounded pencil shaped leaves, and semi-terete vandas have a hybrid leaf shape that is somewhere intermediate between the two. Vandas are sun loving plants and require bright light. The terete and semi-terete vandas can handle full sun, as the shape of their leaves allows for heat to dissipate from the plant. The strap-leaved vandas with their flat, wide leaves are tolerant of light levels that are slightly less than full sun. Provide up to 25% shade cover for strap-leaved vandas to protect them from leaf burn during the intense midday sun.

Most Vandas prefer warm temperatures. The optimum temperature range falling between 60°F at night and a maximum daytime temperature of 95°F. Minimum nighttime temperatures are not recommended to drop below 55°F. Do not fret if you live in a cooler northern climate as these orchids can successfully be grown indoors during the winter months. Not all vandaceous orchids require warm tropical conditions. Neofinetia, a genus of orchids often referred to as the “samurai orchid”, native to China, Korea and Japan are known to be cool to cold growing orchids. These orchids prized for their delicately shaped white to pink fragrant flowers and often variegated foliage were recently reclassified into the vanda alliance due to ongoing research by taxonomists.

Vandas require copious amounts of water during the warmer months when the plants are in active growth. When temperatures are warm water the plants 1-2 times per day, allowing the plant leaves and roots to dry out quickly. Simply misting your plants is not enough. The roots of the plant must be thoroughly soaked by running water for several minutes. In addition to lots of water vandas require high humidity, near 80% is ideal, and good air movement. These orchids can handle a lot of fertilizer, especially during periods of active growth. Consider adding a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer to your watering regime once a week during active growth. As temperatures cool during the winter months, limit your watering to every 48 hours and cut back on the strength of your fertilizer solution used during watering. In addition to lots of water and fertilizer, if you are looking to grow vandas successfully it is necessary to treat with fungicide on a regular basis. Try treating plants with commercial fungicides such as Banrot, Clearys 3336, or Physan 20 in order to keep plants looking healthy and free of unwanted fungus and molds.

Vanda orchids require virtually no repotting as they are often grown using little to no organic media. In fact, a common method of growing vandas is to attach the plant directly to a wire and hang it up in the greenhouse. One exception to this rule is *Rhyncostylis gigantea*. This slow growing species with its thick roots prefers to be grown inside a hanging pot surrounded by organic media. So how do you propagate a vanda that has gotten tall and leggy, or palm tree like. When the top leafy portion of the plant has developed 3-4 good roots that are approximately 12” in length, you can preform a “top cut” to separate the top portion of the plant from the lower leafless main stem of the plant. Make sure to treat the area where you made your cut with either cinnamon or an antifungal spray to prevent infection. Do not throw the bottom main stem portion away. Odds are if you place it off to the side on a bench in your greenhouse and take care of it by watering everyday it will eventually form a new growth, or keiki. The act of laying the propagated piece horizontally on a bench or even hanging it upside down from a wire is enough to “stress” the plant into thinking it is dying and tricks the plant into producing new growths.

There can be a lot to appreciate about the Vanda alliance. Whether you prefer the more traditional big flowered species vandas, such as *Vanda sanderiana* and *Vanda coerulea*, that only bloom once a year. Or you could try your hand at hybrids made using *Ascocentrum* orchids, that yield an overall smaller plant with multiple flower spikes featuring bright colors including reds, oranges, and yellows. There are also lovely hybrids made utilizing *Rhyncostylis* species that bloom several times throughout the year with very fragrant flowers.

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August 2016 Volume 85 Number 8

## Reprint: **TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST - AUGUST: THE MONTH OF STIMULANTS**

By: Thomas Mirenda

In the hazy, hot, and humid dog days of summer, it can be difficult to motivate ourselves to even budge from the air-conditioned comfort of our dwellings. Sipping a delicious iced coffee as I write this, I am nervously contemplating how I will manage to get anything else done today. Then I remember one simple truth, if I do not get my work done, there are consequences! And if I am being honest, I genuinely do not want to let anyone down. I want to pull my weight and contribute to the greater good. All of us do. A wise gardener once said: "The lazier you are, the more diligently you should weed." Were truer words ever spoken? While this propensity of weeds to get out of hand in the summer is obvious to conscientious gardeners, this truism carries over into so many other aspects of our lives. Not keeping up with work, housekeeping, tending to relationships and other tasks can lead to impenetrable patches of thorny weeds in our lives. Having made these kinds of lapses multiple times in my own affairs, I have learned there is no greater stimulant than the knowledge of what could happen if I do not buckle down, focus, and get to work. This is very true in orchid collections too. Despite our best intentions, in our desire to acquire more and more plants we often start to fall behind in the tasks necessary to give all those wonderful plants the care they deserve. For me, a beautifully grown and cared for plant, even out of bloom, is an incredibly beautiful thing. A well-grown orchid exudes vigor and strength and makes me happy inside. There is nothing quite so stimulating as a thriving plant, especially when it is your own personal effort that made it so.

**SUMMER FUN** If you have the luxury of an outside space to summer your plants, chances are they have started to send roots outside their pot rims by this month, particularly cattleyas, oncidiums and dendrobiums. While some find this to be unsightly, generally it means your plants are growing and progressing. Aerial roots are natural and indicate that the plant is benefiting from the natural humidity and air movement it gets when placed in just the right microclimate outside. I like to think that those roots indicate the plant is enjoying summer camp, and will return in the fall healthier, happier, stronger, and just plain better off for the experience.

**SUMMER STRESSES** Not all plants are made for the rigors of summer camp. Phalaenopsis, for example, might enjoy the summer weather, but should never be left outside in the rain or under messy trees that drop debris in their crowns. On a hot summer night, this is a sure way to cultivate crown rot (certainly no one's goal). Similar problems can occur on paphiopedilums. Even orchids such as coelogynes, dendrochilums and lycastes, which are often in active growth this time of year, need some protection from overhead watering and debris falling into their newest growths. Often funnel-like until those newest leaves unfurl, it can be such a disappointment to see those tender new growths suffer or die back from bacterial or fungal pathogens.

**FEEL THE HEAT** While most lowland tropical orchids such as cattleyas, vandas and dendrobiums are enjoying the increase in temperatures and putting on weight in fattening pseudobulbs, it is important to feed your various orchids according to their needs. This is always a judgment call, but it is almost always common sense to fertilize plants that are growing rapidly. It can be tempting though, to overfeed struggling plants, thinking they will do better if you do, but this is generally not advisable. Summer heat might actually shut down metabolism in heat-sensitive plants, leaving dangerous salts in your potting mix that do more harm than good. Touch your plants' leaves on a hot day, if they are cool then they are out of danger. If they feel hot to the touch, they are likely overstressed and should be moved inside to an air-conditioned windowsill.

**BEAUTY AS MOTIVATION** There tend to be a lot fewer orchids in flower this month, because so many need cooler nights to bloom well, so you might not get as much satisfaction from your collection as you might in the fall, winter, or spring. If the rigors of keeping an orchid collection start to wear you down this summer, break out the orchid books and get some pictorial inspiration for the glories to come later in the season. Growing orchids is about patience, nurturing and virtue. Like any other relationship, you need to commit for the long term if you expect great things from your plants. Imagine how beautiful those plants will be next year, in five years, in 30 years, if you do a few simple things for them every year. Now, that is stimulating!

— Tom Mirenda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)).

## 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>	<b>August 05, 2021</b> 8:30pm EDT Thursday	<b>August 18, 2021</b> 8:30pm EDT Wednesday	<b>September 02, 2021</b> 8:30pm EDT Thursday	<b>September 16, 2021</b> 8:30pm EDT Thursday
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Greenhouse Chat</b> (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<b>Leafless Orchids</b>	<b>Greenhouse Chat</b> (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<b>Sarcochilus</b> Australian Miniatures
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Dr. Mary Mancini</b> AOS Judge, Louisiana Judging Center	<b>Ron McHatton</b> Chief Education and Science Officer	<b>Jean Allen-Ikeson</b> JC National Education Coordinator, AOS Editorial Board Chair

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,

Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org)

## We're excited to announce the Orchid Marketplace™ is now LIVE!



You are just a click away from the American Orchid Society's curated list of the world's top orchid vendors and all they have to offer. Find all the products you need to grow and care for your orchids along with specialty products ranging from orchid jewelry to handmade pots. It's all in one convenient location:

<https://marketplace.aos.org/about-us>

Explore each vendor's featured products (see the "Showroom" tab when you click on a vendor listing.)

Be sure to subscribe to the weekly Orchid DealWire™ (at the bottom of the Orchid Marketplace site) - The weekly emails kick off in September with special promotions and announcements, event notifications, and more.

Remember, if you are an AOS member, you also have access to exclusive discounts from EVERY Orchid Marketplace vendor. If you aren't an AOS member, it's easy to join the AOS and enjoy numerous benefits.

We're so happy to finally bring orchid growers and vendors together with the Orchid Marketplace™

We hope you love it!

Sincerely,

American Orchid Society

Membership and Marketing Committee

## Go here to join the AOS:

<https://secure.aos.org/join/new-membership>



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)

### Quiz Answers:

1. D. Mexico and Madagascar
2. D. 80-85 degrees
3. B. 6 inches
4. A. Humidity not adequate
5. D. All of the above