



Volume 28

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THE KEIKI



Welcome to our September issue. We're all missing each other, with the continuing limitations due to the pandemic. At least hurricanes Marco and Laura gave us a pass. As the statistics continue to improve in Florida, we are planning to hold a meeting in September, on the 19th. See Steve's message on page 3 for details.

We hope your orchids have been happily growing and blooming during this summer weather, or at least growing and storing energy for later blooms. Orchid shows and sales have been few and far between but there have been some great plants to be had from vendors and exhibitors.

PLEASE JOIN OUR NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE!! We regularly update it with news about our society as well as pictures from our members and other useful and entertaining information. It's often more current than our website. If you haven't yet joined Facebook, we urge you to do so: it will be worth the effort, promise!

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

September—Member plant sales

October—Annual NCOS Auction (may be cancelled)

November—Annual picnic (may be cancelled)

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>	Sharon Wagner
<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

**Activities that are low risk
of contracting Covid19**

- Watering your orchids
- Fertilising your orchids
- Repotting your orchids
- Talking to your orchids
- Looking at orchids online
- Buying orchids online
- Weeding your orchids
- Having a coffee with your orchids
- Enjoying the sun with your orchids
- Exercising around your orchids
- Pruning your orchids

**Looks like having orchids
is the best prevention**

Happy gardening 😊



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Pat Baig

As of : 8/25/2020

Opening balance:	\$10,681.08
Received:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$442.00
Closing balance:	\$10,239.08
Outstanding (uncashed):	\$329.95



President's Message

Good day everyone!

Well, it looks like we're going to try and put a society meeting together on September 19th. It certainly has been quite some time since we've all seen each other. It's gonna be good for us to get back together. Social distancing and laws will be obeyed. In Pasco County the law is masks must be worn: no ifs ands or buts about it. So bring a mask. We will have some if you don't have your own.

So far we have planned two guest speakers. Jeff Rundell will be talking about air plants, and resident Keiki publisher Matt Riesz will have a surprise topic! I will have a few things to say to the group that are very important to all members. You will have to wait to see what I've got to say, but it impacts everyone. Afterwards we will open up the floor for discussion within the society to discuss plans for 2021. I would certainly like to have a few things put in place early so we don't get bumped by other groups. We will try and have one more meeting before the end of the year.

There will be no picnic, and at this time it looks like there will be no Christmas party either, sad to say. I know everyone looks forward to these two events. Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 it doesn't look like it is a possibility.

Please stay tuned to your emails AND TO FACEBOOK. I urge all our members to join our Facebook page. I do post updates there very frequently and that is the best way to keep up with the news.

Until we meet again!

Happy growing

S



Membership Notes for August

From Arlene Appelbaum

Things are very quiet in the membership department of NCOS. I did receive one online sign up for membership last week. Otherwise the numbers are status quo- 128 people on the rolls with 62 paid and 6 life members

Please be well and stay safe.

Arlene Appelbaum



Phal. LD's Bear Queen HCC/AOS
From Steve Mattana

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. *What is the world's most expensive orchid*
 - A. *Bulbophyllum acutulobum*
 - B. *Paphiopedilum Rothschildianum*
 - C. *Pleurothallis aristate*
 - D. *Cattleya dowiana*
2. *What makes this orchid so expensive*
 - A. *Rare orchid*
 - B. *Endangered*
 - C. *Takes up to 15 years to bloom*
 - D. *All of the above*
3. *Common name for this orchid*
 - A. *Gold of Kinabalu*
 - B. *Sumazau orchid*
 - C. *Rothschilds slipper orchid*
 - D. *All of the above*
4. *Where is this orchid found*
 - A. *Galapagos Islands*
 - B. *Only inside Kinabalu Park*
 - C. *Australian Wetlands*
 - D. *All of the above*
5. *How is Rothschilds orchid pollinated*
 - A. *Bees*
 - B. *Moths*
 - C. *Flies*
 - D. *All of the above*

A few pictures from the Nature Coast Orchid Society facebook page.

Don't forget to stop by our facebook page and share some photos !!



Bulbo. vaginatum



Coelogyne Usitana



Hab. rhodocheila



Ctsm. Sherriff Frank Drew-Female



Phal. Happy Fan Sir Sweet Melon



Phal. Yaphon Sensation Ember



Rhynchostylis coelestis



Angraecum distichum



Ctsm. Aurora



lanclarkara

A Friend Indeed (Orchid BFFs)

by
Jeff Rundell

As you know by now, I leave most of the advice on how to raise orchids to others. I'm always afraid someone will show up at my door with tears in their eyes and hang a dead plant around my neck. It's the side stories that peak my curiosity and, come to think of it, maybe they aren't so irrelevant anyway. No organism exists by itself in nature. The web of interdependence that extends to us also wraps around orchids. Our orchids, resting comfortably in their pots, seem to be outside that web but look a little closer and some fascinating stories appear.

I have to admit one of my least favorite members of insectia are ants. It's a fact that they outnumber us and outweigh us on this planet and they will probably be here long after we are gone. They have been working hard for millennia to form solid alliances with other species and that includes orchids. These are called mymecophilus relationships and are usually mutualistic but may progress toward forced mutualism. The poster child for this bizarre marriage is the *Coryanthes* orchid I got from Don Stoner. As their back bulbs dry, swell and become hollow, the welcome mat is rolled out for the ants. To sweeten the deal the orchid offers extra floral nectar and the ants provide a robust defense along with a dash of bitter formic acid. Invaders are stung, bitten and sprayed by the new tenants. If you have ever had contact with an "ant plant", you know how incredibly sudden and aggressive these critters can be. There are other fascinating ant plants including over 100 genera. Like the orchid many contain domatia, which are cavities to shelter and protect the stinging hoard. Along with the extra floral nectaries, ants can relax to a life that other insects would envy.



Of course the really amazing part of this story is that the orchids are manipulating many insects. The male stingless Euglossine Bee is the "sucker" in one of these marriages. These bees get turned on by the scent of the osmophores deep inside the flower. Now the bees get incredibly excited, but instead of love they fall into an insulting bucket of fluid beneath them and, upon crawling out, deposit any pollinia they are carrying and pick up a new load from the flower. The bees do seem to benefit by collecting these fragrance crystals but no one seems to know why. Maybe for the same reason I bought bottles of "English Leather" cologne when I was in high school? These same bees also are obliged to pollinate *Gongora* species but have different structures on their bodies in different places to keep things separate. Incidentally some of these "love potions" bear a chemical resemblance to Vicks Vapo rub and wintergreen oil.

If you have grown any *Angraecums* you probably are aware that many night flying moths also have an intimate relationship with orchids. Darwin was the first to note this and guess about a pollinator for the incredibly long nectary of *Angraecum sesquipedale*. Here is his original text:

I fear that the reader will be wearied, but I must say a few words on the Angraecum sesquipedale, of which the large six-rayed flowers, like stars formed of snow-white wax, have excited the admiration of travelers in Madagascar. A whip-like green nectary of astonishing length hangs down beneath the labelum. In several flowers sent me by Mr. Bateman I found the nectaries eleven and a half inches long, with only the lower inch and a half filled with very sweet nectar. What can be the use, it may be asked, of a nectary of such disproportional length? We shall, I think, see that the fertilisation of the plant depends on this length and on nectar being contained only within the lower and attenuated extremity. It is, however, surprising that any insect should be able to reach the nectar: our English sphinxes have probosces as long as their bodies: but in Madagascar there must be moths with probosces capable of extension to a length of between ten and eleven inches!

Of course it took years to finally discover the Hawk moth with the tongue to do the job. Lots of these blossoms are white and very fragrant at night and sadly almost everything, except people, is endangered in Madagascar.

Let's now travel to the south Pacific and the island of New Guinea, which is the center of diversity for the strangest group of orchids -the *Bulbophyllums*. The BFFs here are the order diptera - flies - and not just any flies, but ones that love rotting flesh, wounds, urine, carrion and, occasionally fruit. The *Bulbophyllums* manage to attract blowflies and flesh flies by not only duplicating these fetid odors but also the look of things like an open wound so their flowers are frequently in shades of red and brown. Somewhat easier to imagine, but not to see are a huge group of infrequently grown orchids called the *Pleurothallids*. I visited an orchid "museum" just outside the entrance to the Monteverde Cloudforest reserve in Costa Rica that had almost 1,000



plants within but took up an area only about the size of two living rooms. You were handed a magnifying glass upon entering and many of the plants were thumbnail size. Their pollinators were tiny flies you could barely detect around flowers which were the size of a grain of sand.



When orchids live at higher elevations with cooler temperatures, they face another problem: a lack of insects. They need something warm blooded and birds, especially hummingbirds, are happy to oblige. This is called “ornithophily” and it is a costly strategy for the plants. Many of these orchids are shades of red which insects do not see well and their pollinia are dark blue or grey instead of yellow. The reason for this is so that the pollinia that collect on the beak are the same color as the beak. If they were yellow the bird, who has great color vision, would notice, clean them off and discard them. These pollinia are also much stickier and the flowers have strong narrow openings. The strong folds require the bird to peck to get entrance. Nectar is an expense so the sweetness of high altitude orchids is much more dilute than what insects get at lower elevations.

Ever since 1889 when Noel Bernard discovered orchid seeds germinating under a forest log, we’ve known how essential fungi (mycorrhizia) are to orchid seed germination. It’s one sweet relationship starring the fungi as providers of essential nutrients. Nobody really knows how mutualistic the marriage is, but we wouldn’t have an orchid club if it had never been discovered. Most of kingdom fungi are loaded with extracellular enzymes and we have all seen their ability to turn a good apple into a slimy smelly liquid lump that appeals only to them. In the case of orchids those enzymes are harnessed to break down huge molecules into smaller nutrient molecules just like what happens in our own gut. I’ve had my problems with the evil side of fungi turning an orchid into mush especially with the wet weather that we sometimes have in our area of Florida. But research has shown that it’s not just germinating orchids that have fungal friends. Wild orchids plucked from the trees have a whole host of fungi accompanying them. What I’m about to suggest probably has crossed minds much greater than mine. I have used various orchid “tonics” like Super Thrive and others in hopes of duplicating the results their advertising claims. There is good evidence for some of their ingredients (trace minerals and plant hormones) but not much for the rest of their additives especially all those human vitamins. I take a “probiotic” tablet every day to strengthen my immune system. It, along with yogurt and other cultured foods helps us maintain good health. My question is when we grow orchids devoid of their native fungi and bacteria, are we weakening their immune system? Are there probiotics for orchids? The people at the hydroponics store down on Rte 19 believe it. They brew up a tea concoction from compost they claim helps all plants resist attack. Would material scraped from the trees where orchids live contain the beneficial “probiotics” that could strengthen their immunity? I cannot find any research to validate this idea. Maybe you can?

At the start of this article I promised to focus on the positive relationships orchids have with other organisms. So I refuse to digress into the evil relationship of my most hated associates like scale insects and mealybugs. Just the thought of them sucking the life out of a plant ruins my dinner. Instead let’s focus on some of the little friends I’ve invited into my lanai to help protect my plants. Among my favorites are those adorable little jumping spiders (Salticids). There are close to 100 species in Florida and I love to watch them sneak up on some hapless fly and jump several inches landing on their victim. Take a closer look and you will see their huge frontal eyes and the beautiful iridescent carapace as they dance side to side looking for a meal. There are loads of other “helpers” that can easily be mistaken for the enemy including: Ladybugs (technically lady bird beetles) and their larvae who love to dine on scale insects, beautiful metallic tiger beetles, mantids, predatory wasps, centipedes, lacewings, parasitic tachinid flies, shieldbugs, rove beetles, and robber flies. I admit that I have captured a few lizards and released them inside my lanai. They are the Brown Anoles introduced from Cuba and the Bahamas in the early 1900s. They have largely replaced the native green Carolina Anole that used to be much more common. Their tails are fat which proves they’ve managed to find plenty of prey among my plants.



My last suggestion for an orchid companion is, perhaps the most obvious: another orchid! I think this was beautifully demonstrated by Gary Gethen with his two large mounts he called Adam and Eve. Both these large Buttonwood mounted collections had many plants attached and growing vigorously. Most of us traditionally isolate our plants in separate pots but by mounting them together we could save space, have a progression of bloom and, in my view, turn orchids into an art form just as the bonsai growers have done for centuries with their miniature worlds. For many years I’ve broken the rules by placing Tillandsias (bromeliad “air plants”) in many of my hanging basket and mounted orchids. They add interest, color and, as I’ve said, “orchids need friends too”. I’d love to hear your ideas on any of these subjects especially if they show orchids as a part of the natural



Let's Grow Together!

American Orchid Society
 American Orchid Society

www.aos.org

AOS News

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	September 01, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	September 10, 2020 8:30 EST Thursday	October 06, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	October 20, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Encyclias and their Hybrids	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Understanding How to Care for your Paphiopedilums
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Mike Curtin AOS Student Judge and member of Oregon Orchid Societies	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Dave Sorokowsky Owner Paph Paradise Awarded grower and AOS Judge

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 greenhouse-chat@aos.org**

Visit the AOS website for a [Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care](https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/september-october-checklist.aspx)
<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/september-october-checklist.aspx>

September: The Month of Aloha

By Thomas Mirenda

A singularly beautiful word from the Hawaiian language with several meanings including love, hello and goodbye, Aloha is more about spirit and philosophy. It reflects a caring and nurturing nature that kind people feel for each other. It does not judge, it does not discriminate and it is a universal term of endearment. This month, many of us say goodbye wistfully to summer friends, jobs and carefree days, while simultaneously embarking on fantastic new adventures and initiatives. I am no exception, as I begin my new position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden this month. I know this new adventure will be hard work and will present many challenges for me. Nonetheless, I am invigorated by the Aloha I know I will experience there. Needless to say, the capacity to grow orchids outside is icing on the Haupia cake.

Our lives take us on many different paths, but all of us on the orchid path know what it means to be nurturers and cultivators. This month as the seasons shift again and temperatures and day length wax and wane (depending on what hemisphere you are in), it is important to be very observant of your collection. Some photoperiod-dependent plants will slow down with these changes, others may speed up as temperatures are more to their liking, but one thing is for sure, changes are coming!

OVERHEATING IS OVER With the onset of fall, many things shift; that is, temperatures are getting lower and nights are getting longer. The intense, and sometimes damaging, heat that has kept many plants in suspended animation is ending and more favorable growing conditions commence. I have often seen new flushes of growth on cattleyas, dendrobiums and Oncidium alliance plants this time of year. If you live in a climate where the cold weather does not start for a couple more months, then you can water and fertilize as you might in the spring for another month or so. But if your winter weather starts in October, you might want to slow down or hold off on feeding your plants this month to get them ready for dormancy, (catasetums, and deciduous dendrobiums) or spike initiation (phalaenopsis and cymbidiums).

THE GREAT OUTDOORS Any plants that have summered outside may have grown spectacularly with the excellent light, fresh air and rainwater. Even so, if you live in a harsh winter area, you need to at least start thinking about where the plants will go as the weather shifts again to cold. Make sure your indoor spaces, be they greenhouses, windowsills or light rooms are sanitized and ready for the return of all the "chids" that were camping out this summer. Since they will have grown, there may not be room for everyone! You might consider giving away some plants to new orchid society members or making some divisions of really choice plants that you love and cannot part with.

SAFETY INDOORS It is also very important to inspect plants for hitchhikers such as ants or sow bugs (or worse things) that might have invaded them while outside. Spray or drench any such plants before bringing them inside as they can cause serious problems if they spread through your collection. It is also wise at this time to test your heaters, vents, fans, and misting and irrigation systems to make sure they are still in good working order. You do not want that unpleasant surprise of finding them malfunctioning during the first cold snap of the year.

WILD AND GARDEN ORCHIDS Many fantastic natives are blooming around this time of year including the glorious platantheras and spiranthes among others. Do not miss this show! Find out about local populations and see these beauties at their peak of blooming. If you are growing hardy orchids such as bletillas and cypripediums in your gardens, most have ragged foliage by now, or may not even be visible above ground this month. Make sure you mark their location and purchase or gather the mulch (usually pine needles are good for many of these types of plants) that is helpful and often necessary for their winter protection. I am looking forward to not having to do this winter ritual anymore. Do not be jealous. Come visit me instead! Aloha! *(As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 86, NO.9, September 2017)*

MONTHLY AWARDS GALLERY

AOS MEMBERS review the beauty and diversity of awarded orchids in every issue of [ORCHIDS magazine](#) and in the **OrchidPro** awards database. <http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>



Myriophylla brayana "Winefield"
 AM | AGO (50 points)
 04/18, 2020



Papilionopidium Maunaloa Valley Royal Bel "Max & Bryon's Best"
 MOC | AGO (18 points)
 04/18, 2020



Phalaenopsis Forever Young "S & M"
 AM | AGO (30 points)
 04/18, 2020



Phalaenopsis Forever Young "Purple Gem '04' x 'Delicious' "Bryon Kelly Rinke"
 MOC | AGO (50 points)
 04/18, 2020

YOUR ORCHID LIBRARY

By Celeste Ogden

<http://www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-checkout-books.html>

How do I get a book from the Club's Library?

1. Just Click on: www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-alphabetical-list-books.html
2. Select Books or CD's you think would be useful and order right on the web page.

Select any number(s) that you would like to spend some time with and then you can sign them out at the next Members' Meeting. Keep them for 1 month and return them at the following meeting and remove your name from the list.

If you have any questions about our Library Books, my email address is:

BOOK OF THE MONTH

We have no book of the month, this month, but you are encouraged to look at the list of great books we have on the website and pick one or more.

c1948ogden@gmail.com

Answers to quiz

1. B. Paphiopedulum rothschildianum
2. D. All of the above
3. D. All of the above
4. B. Only inside Kinabalu Park
5. C. Flies

www.orchidsplus.com/worlds-expensiveorchid

To check out this orchid for yourself



**Nature Coast
Orchid Society**

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