The Keik

Volume 21 *August 2012 Issue* *August 11, 2012*

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Linda Roderick

I was first introduced to orchids in the late 70's, while forced to camp on the Amazon River after the boat caught fire. Despite my predicament, I enjoyed seeing cattleya orchids high up in the canopies in the jungle. But it was not until decades later that I found time to start my own collection. A coworker at Pasco County Schools offered me five plants of her late grandfather's cattleya collection for $35.00 in May 2002. That began my orchid addiction. I joined the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill soon after.

I overwatered and lost any that I tried to grow in spagham moss for the first years. Now, I know that any plants I keep in the moss are kept in an area where they just get hand watered weekly . I just sprinkle the leaves a bit during the summer heat each day. The majority of my plants (vandas, mounted plants, those in aliflor or tree fern) are watered daily by an automatic system.

I have a small glass curved roof lean to glass greenhouse (10 ft. x6 ft.) attached to the semi shaded south side of the house for vandas and some mounted cattleya. A 20 ft. x

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Treasure's Report
By Helen Battistrada, Treasure

Balance 6/16/12	$ 2773.33
Receipts	$ 162.00
Total	$ 2935.33
Disbursements	$ 388.00
Balance 6/16/12	$ 2935.33

Upcoming Speaker Program
By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

August
Hicks Orchids & Supplies.

September
Francisco Miranda

October
Indoor picnic October 20th at 12:30 p.m.
Dick Kaufman , Cattleya culture and have some slides.

November
Club Auction

Membership
By Yvonne Allen,
Membership Coordinator

67 Paid members.

June Meeting Attendance
39 Members.
7 Guest.

Newsletter Deadline is the 1st of the month. Forward newsletter submissions to:
The.Keiki@tampabay.rr.com
Or
Judy Smith, Editor
7918 W flight Path Ct
Crystal River, FL 34429

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING JULY 21, 2012

- President Geary Harris called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.
- Old Business:
- Sonia Terrelonge thanked Helen for coordinating the shirts to be embroidered. She'll get them back as soon as possible.
- Pat Dupke has a sign up sheet for the indoor picnic in October. Sloppy Joe's & grilled hot dogs are on the menu.
- Tentative dates for the orchid festival are March 1st, 2nd, & 3rd.
- Al spoke about the Christmas party being held at the Wellington Clubhouse restaurant. It will be $16.00 per person & there are 3 entrée choices.
- Helen Battistrada spoke about the upcoming annual orchid auction being held in November. If anyone would like to donate healthy orchid plants for the auction, that would be appreciated.
- Yvonne Allen is placing an order for name tags. She'll take orders during the break.
- Hicks is the speaker for August. They will be selling supplies.
- Joyce Fowler thanked everyone who came to her open house in early May.
- New Business:
- Jeff Rundell is speaking to a group on October 22nd & is looking for 2 assistants & any flowering orchids. He will be very careful transporting any borrowed orchids.
- Questions and answers on problem plants & all the rain we've been having.
- Break
- Show table.
- Linda Meyer bought a souvenir spoon from Alaska for someone, but can't remember who. Please get in touch with her.
- Speaker Ed Bugbee spoke about growing orchids in the summer and gave general orchid tips.
- The raffle was held.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Caparbi-Taylor

New Member (s)
Please welcome as our newest club member (s);

Carol Fisette
10168 Feather Ridge
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Liz Becsenesco,
4360 Talco Ave
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Magdalene Ghandngam
8110 Crystal Brook Circle
Brooksville, FL 34601

Our meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month starting at 1:00 P.M. We usually have an informative speaker at each meeting, a show table of orchids grown by our members and orchids for sale. We meet at the Partners Club of Oak Hill Hospital, 11375 Cortez Blvd., Spring Hill.

Refreshment Reminder
By Eleanor Szarzynski,
Refreshment Coordinator
352-688-3887

August
Tom Gaven
Yvonne Allen
Connie Recior

Soft Drinks
Sue Caparbi-Taylor
Judy Smith

Things My Mother Taught Me.

My mother taught me about STAMINA…

"You'll sit there 'till all that spinach is finished."

GUEST SPEAKER SEGMENT
by Delia Dunn

Lyn *and* Ed Bugbee

Ed Bugbee has been growing orchids for 25 years - he and his wife, Lyn, own Featherstone Orchids just north of Crystal River and have been long time members of this Club. Ed is our Program Chairman and many of the growers he usually contacts for talks are either out of the country this month or otherwise busy with shows or speaking engagements.

He didn't have any specific subject to speak about but he is always very interesting and gives us many good growing tips. Speaking very generally about orchids, he started with the basics of Light, Temperature, Water and Nutrition. All go hand in hand and must remain in balance by increasing and decreasing together. And at this particular time we're experiencing extremely hot temperatures and a ton of rain so the advice he gave us was definitely timely. Orchids need higher light and higher amounts of water and higher nutrition (fertilizer) during these times of extreme temperature. In the Fall when things cool down then lesser amounts of each of these should be given.

Some professional growers *fertilize* every day in very hot and very humid weather but they have totally controlled environments fully automated systems with back-up generators for electrical outages. For those of us who are hand fertilizing, we normally would start fertilizing in March to April when we see new growths emerging everywhere and the root tips turn green. 1 tablespoon per gallon is on most labels but he believes 1 teaspoon per gallon is better. The old adage is *Weekly, weakly!* or is it *Weakly, weekly?* If you're using smaller ratios like 8-8-8 or 10-10-10, then a tablespoon per gallon is fine but for the higher numbers like 18-18-18 or 20-20-20 and the higher mixed numbers, then cut down the quantity to a teaspoon per gallon. He also said you need to check for minor mineral elements that normally don't come in most fertilizers. They're designed for reverse osmosis and *hydroponic*systems*. Most plants can get these nutrients from their media or soil, but an orchid can't. So you must read the container label to verify that minor, lesser or micronutrients are present. He uses a timed-release fertilizer with liquid fertilizer on top during heavy rain and summer heat periods. That way he assures the plants have appropriate amounts of food available all the time rather than waiting to be fed. For the most part, if food is available for the plant, it will take what it needs and leave the rest. A stronger dose runs a risk of burning the roots and/or the leaves. He does not advise using timed-release Osmocote as the little green beads can burst with our intense heat and the overdose of fertilizer will burn the roots. One example of a solid form polymer is Nutricote, designed to take full sun or shade, and slowly release when wet. One teaspoon per 6" pot is the ratio Ed uses. When the rapid phase of growth stops during winter, the roots of an orchid actually go dormant without actually dying (that's evident in the Spring when the new growth is the same size or larger than the older mature growth) and the velum grows down over the green growing tip signaling the plant is now dormant and no longer has

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The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

The annual Orchid Festival is being scheduled for March 1st, 2nd & 3rd. It will be held at the Florida Sun Coast Lodge formally the SNJP Lodge. March 1st is the show set up date, 2nd and 3rd open to the public and the afternoon of the 3rd is also the tear down date.

We should use this show as a educational experience for newcomers and a membership drive as well as a show displaying the beauty of orchids.

I would like everyone to be thinking how we can make it better than our 2012 show. You input is very important to the show committee and every suggestion will be considered as well as constructive criticism.

Please contact myself Geary Harris or Jeff Rundell or Donna Frazekas with your input.

August In Your Orchids

Re-printed by permission of the St. Augustine Orchid Society

August is the hottest month so be prepared to work diligently to ensure sufficient humidity and air circulation. Spray water on the floor, benches and outer surface of clay pots one or more times every day during the hottest times. Summer's higher temperatures, brighter light conditions and longer days induce orchids to manufacture the greatest amounts of carbohydrates when provided with enough fertilizer. The warm temperatures also cause insect populations to increase. Observe your plants carefully and spray for both insects and disease when first noticed. It may be necessary to move unsheltered plants into an area protected from torrential rains.

Cattleyas

The extreme heat seems to discourage active growth and flowering, but many plants are either developing buds for their autumn flowering or are ripening growths that will power the winter and spring blooming season. The bifoliates and nodosa hybrids seem best able to bloom during the summer temperature extremes. Monitor water needs and continue to use a dilute fertilizer. Tie up new growths carefully to promote upright development of the pseudobulbs.

Cymbidiums

Use high potassium fertilizer in late August. The potassium level should be at 250 to 300 ppm potassium (K) and zero to very low N. Do this only two times at a two week interval. Wait a month then resume your normal fertilizer schedule.

Dendrobiums

The nobile-type dendrobiums are popular though some growers find them difficult to flower. In order to promote the gradual shift from active growth to the flowering cycle, start withholding nitrogen now. Some growers report using a bloom booster this time of year on winter dormant plants helps prepare them for their dormancy.

Phalaenopsis

Current high temperatures are particularly stressful for phalaenopsis. Excess heat and humidity promote bacterial Pseudomonas infections on the fleshy leaves. Keep light levels subdued, promote sufficient air circulation and do not splash water from one plant onto another. Keep using a dilute (1/8th strength) fertilizer with every watering to develop the strongest roots and largest leaves prior to the winter flowering season.

Vandas

Summer growing conditions are ideal for Aerides, Ascocentrum, Rhynchostylis and Vanda hybrids. Feed aggressively and provide high humidity. Try placing a rubber-topped plastic flower tube containing stale beer on a rigid, emerging new root. Rather quickly, the root will consume the beer and utilize its carbohydrate content, producing some remarkable growth responses this month.

Show Table

The show table featured many beautiful orchids this month. All who brought there favorite plant to showcase for the rest of us are to be commended for there efforts. If you have and outstanding orchid you would like to share with the rest of the club, I encourage you to bring it in for all to see. (XX yr. orchid growing. In no particular order.)

Blue Ribbon(s)

Jerry Hart (22 yr.)	P.
Dale Story (15 yr.)	Lc.
Ed Bugbee (25 yr.)	Hab. Phrag.

Honorable Mention

Jerry Hart (22 yr.)	Allra. P.
Pat Dupke (21 yr.)	Paph.
Delia Dunn (19 yr.)	Den. Den.
Sonia Terrelonge (5 yr.)	Bc.
Dale Story (15 yr.)	Psychp.
Dan Grant (8 yr.)	C.
Ed Bugbee (25 yr.)	Rlla..

Upcoming Biography's

September
Dick Coffman

October
Yvonne Allen

November
Tom Gavin

(Speaker Continued from page 3)

a demand for fertilizer. *(WHO KNEW THAT?)* This is when salts can build up to lethal amounts in the velum since the plant is not utilizing them.

He talked about Jim Clarkson, one of our AOS Judges who died a year or so ago, who was really good at growing *Catasetums and Cycnoches*. He'd take a larger pot than normal for re-potting, and layer sphagnum and 1/4" per layer of Nutricote alternately in several layers and when he was finished the pot held a large percentage of Nutricote. Those particular plants can handle that much fertilizer because they have a short rapid growing period and need all the energy they can get to develop incredibly robust bulbs from which they get their energy for the next year's new growth. This inspired a member to ask further questions about Catasetums and Ed says you don't necessarily have to take the plant out of the pot over the winter period as some people suggest. Since he covers his greenhouses for the winter they remain over 50 degrees and never go completely dormant - his leaves get ratty looking but don't turn brown. He repots in the spring as the new roots and growths begin to emerge giving them new sphagnum and fertilizer. He does however completely stop fertilizing them over the winter months. There is no need to start up again until new growths start to show, which may be as late as May, depending on the individual plant and conditions. Answering another question, if the roots of these plants happen to turn upwards instead of going down into the medium then he suggests just watering the exposed roots more or adding more bark to the pot if necessary but hollow around the actual plant so the bulbs don't rot. Keep an eye on the pot as downpours of rain may move the bark where it shouldn't be - the bark will try to become level. To fertilize the upward growing roots he suggests Hicks' homemade baggies of fertilizer be hung above them.

Regarding the question of whether or not to water before fertilizing, he described the root system of orchids and how their roots are actually a tiny thin hair covered by velum. Some have only a light layer (Oncidiums) and require more water and some are quite thick and do not need much (Cattleyas). Some like Vandas have no storage bulbs and need daily watering but adjust the thickness of the velum according to the amount of light they get, to prevent the root from burning. The velum further acts like a sponge absorbing water and anchors the plant to its host (a tree, a mount or a pot). Once velum swells with water (indicated by green in color) the outer layer dries returning to its white state again. Water is thus stored while the inner root takes nice long drinks over the next few hours. Ed likes to do a pre-watering in the winter since he grows under cover over the winter. The root velum can become clogged with excess unused salts so this action will flush them out and they can start anew and there is no risk of burning the inner root. Plants that grow outdoors exposed to our summer rains have excess salts flushed from the roots on a regular basis so they don't really need a pre-watering in those months.

Michigan State did a study of *low Phosphorus vs. high Nitrogen* and discovered that excess amounts of phosphorus are not only polluting our water reservoirs but are also inhibiting flowering! Bloom Booster is high in phosphorus so according to those results, you would not be doing the plant a service at all by using it. Instead you could use a low phosphorus fertilizer and you will have more flowers per stem and more stems! They also found that calcium & magnesium play a huge part in minimizing stress. By adding a 'Cal/Mag' fer-

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(Linda Continued from page 1)

12 ft. Weatherguard greenhouse on the east side of the house contains the rest of the orchids. Both areas are filled to the maximum. I put the stanhopeas, large dens, cymbidiums, and some epis under a big tree for a summer vacation. I do not know how many orchids I have and never seem to get at the task of cataloging them. I do a tour daily looking for any problems and usually find a snail or two.

Nine fans continuously. In the winter, with the aid of four electric heaters, I do not let the temperature go below 55. A 30 x 40 ft. clear insulated pool cover is placed over my greenhouse from November -March to further help protect orchids from the cold.

In the spring and early summer, I use Seaweed extract, bat guano and fish emulsion and have an explosion of new growth. I alternate the beer recipe (1/2 cup ammonia, 1 can beer, 1 cup Epsom's salt- use 1/2 ounce of mixture to gallon of water) and Peter's for weekly fertilizers. Club member Laura Newton sells a foliar spray of amino acids that is amazing. I notice new root growth right after I apply it. I do not use any pesticides. Scale is treated with ½ 409 and ½ alcohol spray.

I did win four AOS awards in 2011, but haven't gone to any more AOS judging centers this year. AOS charges AOS members $36.00 for each award given, and I decided I would rather put that money into a new plant.

My favorites are species, but I love all orchids. I continue to learn about orchids from the Internet, OLCSH club library, guest speakers, and other club members. I read current issues of Orchids magazine and Orchid Digest and find the AOS website very helpful.

I am presently the librarian and publicity chairman of the club and have enjoyed chairing several spring festivals. I enjoy our monthly meetings and look forward to seeing our club grow.

(Speaker Continued from page 5)

tilizer or supplement to your nutrition program you will allow your plant to thrive with a low phosphorus formula. Epsom Salts is a form of magnesium. With high-calcium water such as most us have in Florida you'd use Epsom Salts at the rate of 1 tbsp/gal. If you have a reverse osmosis water treatment system all the minerals are removed from the water. You would need to replace both magnesium and calcium in perfect balance - this can be achieved with any good multi-mineral supplement. A Cal/Mag supplement is available to augment fertilizer you currently have, as long as it has minor nutrients in it.

Ed said most seeds have their food source in the seedpod but orchid seeds do not. They need mycorrhizal fungus to supply food. Orchids have a symbiotic relationship with this fungus, which is able to get nutrients from soil or host and to provide nutrients in a usable form without harm to itself! Orchid seeds cannot germinate on their own out of their native location, as their native fungus is not available. We use a sterile media in a breathing sterile jar in a lab to mimic that fungus. Ed told the story of his good friend in Panama who threw an orchid up in a tree and months later he looked up and there must have been 1,000 baby plants up there because the conditions were just right and they have the fungus there. He is experimenting now with all kinds of orchid species to see what he can grow in a controlled natural environment

Answering a question about the use of Super Thrive, he said not to go overboard with it. He told how people have done tests to see if it makes any difference and apparently results were not that exciting. One test even turned up several deformities in plants that had used a lot of Super Thrive. He only uses it for de-flasking when plants are super stressed and for plants in recovery. He uses a multi-mineral supplement year round so he feels Super Thrive for him is over kill. His suggestion is that if you want to use it, just use minimal amounts which is 1/4 teaspoon per gallon and follow directions on the package for how oft

(Continued on page 7)

(Speaker Continued from page 6)

and for much lower quantities than a gallon

Orchids like an acid environment - Ed likes to grow all his seedlings and Oncidinae alliance plants in sphagnum moss in net pots. This way they can have all the air they want. The wide spaces in the pot also allow the roots to dry out fairly quickly. Because rain is acid and the moss is not, the plants end up growing in a healthy pH 5.6; where as, in an organic media, such as bark, the media is exposed to our torrential summer rains and will rapidly change it's pH to a lethal condition for orchids.

Misting cools the plants off but in high continuous heat it is not sufficient for 'watering' since the velum never swells with enough water to reach the inner root! It would take multiple mistings to accomplish actually turning the roots green. Without the roots turning green the plant never gets enough nutrition to swell bulbs to their potential. They need to store enough energy to reproduce (flower). Any time the plant has to tap into reserve energy to survive, you diminish it's capacity to flower to it's full potential. Fat swollen bulbs are healthy. Wrinkled bulbs are not. Some bulbs have a few natural ridges not to be confused with wrinkling! Wrinkling comes from shrinking bulbs.

Do we cut the stem off an Oncidium once it's stopped blooming?? Ed actually said YES but alternatively says MAYBE. If you are unsure leave it on there until it turns yellow or brown. A healthy Psychopsis, papilio type, flowers repeatedly for years off the same stem. You can cut the yellow portion but do not cut the entire stem or you lose years of buds! A few others will branch and flower a bit more. Most can be cut as they only bloom once.

Ed answered many questions from the membership, one of which was about the very long stems on an Oncidium type of orchid like a Sharry Baby - he said you can either hang the plant and the stems will arch down or you can stake the stems up, before the buds reach maturity, so the flowers will turn to present normally. Amazingly, as the stem gets longer and starts to curve downward, the flowers below the curve will turn to present the same way that the flowers

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Orchid Pronunciation How do you say;	Dendrobium den-DROH-bee-um	Drakaea DRAY-kee-a	Eulophiella yew-loh-fee-EL-a
Coelogyne see-LOJ-in-ee	Dendrochilum den-droh-KYE-lum	Earina EER-ee-na	Gastrochilus gas-tro-KYE-lus
Colax KOH-laks	Dichaea dye-KEE-a	Encyclia en-SEE-clee-ah	Grammatophyllum gram-mat-o-FILL-um
Comparettia kom-pa-RET-ee-a	Dilochia dye-LOH-kee-a	Epidendrum eh-pi-DEN-drum	Habenaria hab-en-AY-ri-a
Corallorrhiza kor-al-lo-RYE-za	Dipodium dye-POH-dee-um	Eria EAR-ee-a	Hexisea heks-ISS-ea-a
Coryanthes ko-ree-AN-theez	Disa DYE-sa	Eriopsis ear-ee-OP-siss	Homalopetalum ho-mal-oh-PET-al-um
Cycnoches SIK-no-keez	Diuris Dye-YEWR-is	Erythrodes err-i-THROH-deez	Houlletia hoo-LET-ee-a
Cymbidium sim-BID-ee-em	Domingoa do-ming-GOH-a	Euanthe yew-AN-thee	Huntleya HUNT-lee-a
Cypripedium sip-ree-PEE-dee-um	Doritis doh-RYE-tis	Eulophia yew-LOH-fee-a	lonopsis eye-o-NOP-siss
Cyrtorchis SIR-tor-kiss	Dossinia doss-IN-ee-a	Eulophidium yew-loh-FID-ee-um	(To be continued)

(Speaker Continued from page 7)

above the curve are facing.

———————<>———————-

*<u>Note from Delia</u>**:** There is really a lot of **great** detailed information here that we've probably never heard all at one time - I sent my write-up to Ed to have him check it and fill in if necessary and he did an amazing job giving much more detail with things not necessarily given in his talk (Lyn, did you have a hand in this?) so if any of you don't recall hearing some of this, that's the reason.*

- If you are interested in *Catasetum orchids* just put that into Google and so much information, with pictures, is available.

ORCHID GROWING TIPS FROM DR. CHARLES THOMAS

POTTING MEDIA

Cattleyas and Cymbidiums	1 part medium fir bark
	1 part river pebbles (Home Depot)
	1 part sponge rock perlite (extra coarse)
	1 part medium charcoal
	1/2 part coconut chips
Phalaenopsis (7"pots or larger)	1 part medium fir bark
	1 part sponge rock perlite
	1 part medium wood charcoal
(5'-6' pots)	Same as above OR
	bottom half river pebbles
	top half sphagnum (do not exceed 3' of sphagnum)
(4"pots or less)	lower half river pebbles/pea pebbles to top half sphagnum

Oncidiums (small open air baskets) with sphagnum OR (if in pots) use cattleya mix (see above)

Vandas open air wood baskets and water twice daily

Paphiopedilums	1/2 fir bark
	1/2 sphagnum
	place Styrofoam (non dissolving type) peanuts in pots 5' or larger

LIGHT

For most orchids, bright, indirect light is needed without hand shadows.

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(Dr. Thomas Continued from page 8)

FERTILIZER

Once a month 20-20-20 or 18-18-18 preferably for Florida one teaspoon per gallon of water

Once a month Epsom salts/one teaspoon per gallon of water

Once a month minor element mix 1/2 teaspoon per gallon of water
Rest of the time plain water

Its okay to acidify the water to ph5.6 to 6.5 if able (I use phosphoric acid with ph detector drops)

Its okay to use Nutricote or Dynamite (9 month release in spring) on each pot
5' or larger 1/2 teaspoon

4' or less 1/4 teaspoon

POTS

Go Smaller Go Smaller Go Smaller

Phalaenopsis use plastic, the smallest one the plant fits into comfortably (set that pot into an empty clay one if it is too top heavy)

Cattleyas smaller plastic pots (if top heavy set it into a clay pot) OR large, heavy plants need a day pot with Styrofoam peanut layer on bottom

HUMIDITY

In house or patio

Invert a clay saucer upside down into a large plastic saucer 1/2 filled with water/refill with water when it gets low

PESTS

Imidocloprid (Bayer fruit and vegetable)

Recommends once a year 2 ounce per gallon of water/some plants tolerate twice a year

Malathion EC 2 1/2 teaspoons per gallon of water

African Violet sprays

REPOTTING

Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum once a year
Cattleyas and most others every two years

WATER
Varies

Cattleyas every 5-7 days in summer/less in winter

Cymdidiums, Phals and Paphs, Every 4-7 days in summer/less in winter
Vandas daily

More Facts About Orchids

Part one

Orchids are an incredibly beautiful bloom; one that is cherished the world over. Yet, with so many different varieties of Orchids available, it becomes necessary for a gardener to master certain facts about Orchids so that they can properly cultivate the gorgeous flower. In learning the facts about Orchids both the neophyte and adept gardener can properly cultivate the flower and enjoy the bloom during its season.

Professional cultivators of Orchids often share facts about Orchids on the Internet and in an assortment of gardening books. Interestingly, many experts suggest one important fact among all the facts about Orchids—in order to successfully grow Orchids it becomes necessary for a gardener to create conditions that a similar to the Orchid's native habitat. Thus, one of the well know facts about Orchids can be identified in the fact that Orchids require relatively warm climates to grow in—but not so warm that the plant begins to wilt—55-75 degrees Fahrenheit is more than appropriate.

In terms of climates, one of the vital facts about Orchids that all gardeners need to remember is that many Orchids cannot withstand sudden drops in temperature. A sudden drop in temperature may seem too chaotic for the plant and ultimately lead to the plant's death. Therefore if a gardener really wants their Orchids to thrive, it becomes necessary for the gardener to carefully monitor the climate and conditions in which they choose to cultivate their Orchids. In doing so, the gardener will ensure that their Orchids will thrive and that all of their hard work does not go to waste.

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