ORCHID LOVERS CLUB OF SPRING HILL

JULY 4th

The Keiki

Volume 22 *July 2013 Issue* *July 12, 2013*

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2013-2014 Officers Seated

Left to right; 2nd Vice President Sonia Terrelonge; Executive Secretary Pat Dupke; Treasurer Helen Battistrada; 1st Vice President Donna Frazekas; President Geary Harris; Recording Secretary Sue Caparbi-Taylor.

The oath of office was given by Linda Roderick and the new (old) Executive Board was seated.

Charter club member Pat Dupke and 15 year veteran Helen Battistrada were applauded for there dedication and contribution to the clubs success.

Other board members were also recognized for there efforts in keeping the wheels greased and the club moving forward in a progressive manner.

In the Navy we would say “Bravo Zulu” or “Kudos” in civilian sectors. We just say, “Job Well Done”.

Editors

Treasure's Report
By
Helen Battistrada

Balance 05/18/13	$ 3439.63
Receipts	$ 301.00
Total	$ 3740.63
Disbursements	$ 275.25
Balance 6/15/13	$ 3465.38

Upcoming Speaker Program
By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

July

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR JULY MEETING

We will meet at Joy's Orchids rather than the Partner's Club.

Joyce's lecture: "You're Hot and so are your Plants. Tips for growing in the heat." More on page 7.

Membership

By Linda Meyer & Sarah Hart
Membership Coordinators

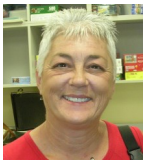
84 Paid members.
35 Members March attendance
13 Guest
2 New Members

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
11361 Cortez Blvd Cortez Blvd.
Brooksville, Florida

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING JUNE 15, 2013

- President, Geary Harris called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
- Greeting of new members and visitors.
- **Old business:**
- Linda Roderick had seeds to give out & she spoke about the orchid library with an assortment of books & magazines.
- The July meeting will be held at Joy Orchids in Brooksville. She is serving food & beverages. Bring your own chairs. A raffle will be held. She is open from 9am – 3pm. Touch of Orchids will also be there. Our meeting will begin at 1:00pm.
- **New Business:**
- Linda Roderick performed the Installation of the Officers.
- Helen Battistrada read the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted & seconded by the club.
- Linda Meyer announced new club member.
- Judges chosen for show table.
- Danny Grant spoke about receiving an AOS award.
- Ed Bugbee spoke about the raffle.
- Break.
- Show table.
- Speaker Johnny Hicks spoke about watering & repotting orchids.
- Raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.



Minutes submitted by Sue Caparbi-Taylor

More Water Please
By
Jeff Rundell

I know you may be tired of hearing more from me on water but I did run across some fun facts from William Cullina's neat book "Understanding Or-

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Refreshment Reminder

By

Eleanor Szarzynski,

Refreshment Coordinator

352-688-3887

July

Eleanor Szarzynski
Sarah Hart
Dorothy Szwec

Soft Drinks

Donna Frazekas
Sonia Terrelonge

Please welcome our newest members;

Mary and George Carpenter
14108 Bensbrook Dr.
Spring Hill, FL 34609

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chids". The bottom line for the most part is no surprise. Orchids prefer rain water, which has a typical TDS of 2-15ppm. Our average well water hovers around 150ppm which, he claims, is about the top for many epiphytic species. TDS (total dissolved solids is the sum of all ions in the sample water). He says 60-120 ppm should be fine for many orchids especially since many of our plants summer outside and get flushed by nature's rain. We can drink up to 500ppm safely and our pools, due to evaporation, may get to 1,000-2,000ppm. Sea water is 34,000ppm which only a few vascular plants like mangrove can stand. The leaf tips of my Phrags. attest to the problem since I am constantly pruning off those brown ends. Ditto for Sobralias. Consider for a moment the amount of rain that falls on your roof if you like math. Just take the rainfall in inches X the square footage of your roof (divided by) 12 X 7.48 and that = the number of gallons in that last storm. In Sugarmill the question is : what storm? So a 1,700 sq.ft. house might have a 2,100 sq.ft. roof which would collect 655 gallons of water for every half inch of rain. See, your water problems are solved.

There are other more devious ways to cope. One is to dilute well water with distilled water. Kind of expensive and time consuming don't you think? Another is to install the reverse osmosis (R/O) system that salesman has been trying to talk you into. It's expensive, requires maintenance and many waste water in a 3:1 ratio. R/O water may also be caustic which orchids really detest. Orchids are "water conserving" power plants. Their velamin (root coating) is a superior sponge. Such plants can raise solute levels in their roots to suck in more water like a powerful osmotic pump. The danger for us is that when the media is very dry and those minerals have accumulated and coated the media, that pump reverses pulling water out and the plant collapses. Sound familiar? So always look for those cute "toenails" on the tips of your roots and hope for enough rain to balance our TDS levels. I'll bring my little test meter to the next few meetings if you are interested in how your water compares to the average and I promise that's my last word on water. <>

Hicks Orchid Supplies

John Hicks of Hicks orchid supplies at the June meeting. Once a year Hicks comes to our regular meeting as a courtesy to our club members. Members can replenish their supplies that may have run out of since the orchid Festival that Hicks always attends.

Johnny Hicks was our featured speaker for the June meeting. Those of you who may not be familiar with Johnny would find him to be very knowledgeable and a unorthodox grower. During the course of Johnny's talk, he would inject just enough humor to keep the listeners attention.

One of the first things he said was, "this is what I do if you do it different and it works for you, keep doing it".

He spoke of several different growing mediums not favoring the ones that break down and turn to muck which in turn encourages root rot. But in the end you must choose the medium you prefer for your growing conditions in his opinion.

The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

Fourth of July is only days away and many people will be barbecuing and watching the fireworks. In Tennessee, our small town would have an all day of games starting with a baseball game, a greasy pig contest, a greasy pole, three legged sack race and lots of barbecue chicken. We even had wedding play made up of men and lots of bluegrass music also a beauty contest. Topped off with a fireworks but, as I look back, it's about what our forefathers did in giving their lives so that we can be free to enjoy the things I have said and much more. So if you see a soldier cross your path, think him for giving his life for our country and for our children.

See you at Joy Orchids

Wild Thing

by

Jeff Rundell

Before I begin this journey into the land of orchid obscurity I should probably do my best to straighten out some of the ramblings from my talk at the last meeting. Having just turned 65 I am now officially an "old crank" so why not complain? I did some more research on the terra cotta pots from Lowe's and the Depot. Many are produced by a multi national corporation called Daroma and made in a factory in Texas. They are not ready to divulge any formulations but my suspicions , based on the "wet spot" test, weight and ease of fracture, is that, like so many things, they have been cheapened during the economic downturn. In trying to make our orchid collections "greener", I assaulted osmunda, sphagnum moss and tree fern and I'd welcome input from members on any substitutes. I have also run across a little more interesting information on water that I will add at the end of this little tirade

It's easy to forget that all those plants we buy from orchid suppliers have not so distant relatives hanging out in forests and fields throughout the the world's wilderness. My plants live safely on the lanai while a few of the less successful are consigned to the trees and are at the mercy of the squirrels. That is not the case for many orchids that are fighting a silent battle with something other than natural forces. That includes massive deforestation, agriculture, orchid collectors, exotic invaders and most notable, climate change. When I had all I could take from the climate in northern NY, I called Allied moving vans, but orchids cannot pull up their roots and fly away like migrating birds. The orchid world thrives on new "must haves" and wild discoveries like Phrag. Kovachii and the night flowering Bulbo. nocturum which provide the raw material that keeps hybridizers in ecstasy and the orchid business profitable. The time may be near when many of these plants exist only in collections. You may have heard that on the arctic island of Svallbard there are huge vaults holding seeds of thousands of plants in case of ecologic disaster. I sincerely doubt that humans will ever be able to artificially create the entire genome of any complex organism much less an orchid blessed with 50 million years of evolutionary adaptations. Bottom line: extinction is forever! Some of us may stop reading at this point and I admit there are some pretty tiring diatribes about these subjects, but I think there is hope for the future so give me a chance to describe why, and possibly how all of us can help. There is no question that there is a huge disconnect between humans and the natural world in much of our technology driven world these days, but when you look at your orchids, do you ever imagine them out of those ugly pots and back in their native niche?

I remember my first contact with wild orchid collecting (hold up 2 fingers if you've heard this story from me before). It was on the way up a mountain called La India Dormida (the sleeping Indian) in El Valle, Panama. This is a beautiful little town centered inside the eroded crater of a long extinct volcano. There was lots of rich farmland and a jagged ridge of mountains surrounding the outside. We hired a guide (always a good idea) to take us to the top, past a number of waterfalls, many lined with large Phragmepedium plants dangling from the cliffs. The guide insisted on climbing the waterfalls and posing for my camera at the top of the falls. I remember thinking how would I ever explain his potential injuries to his family and then gracefully trying to exit the country. When we reached the top there was really no place to sit except the knife like ridge and a common footpath that was literally one shoe width wide with a tumble of several hundred feet at a 70 degree down angle. There was traffic from natives who seemed to delight in moving shaky visitors like us off the main thoroughfare. It wasn't long before a group of Embara Indians came through bearing the fruits of the jungle including some huge orchids their machetes had felled from somewhere on the wild side of the mountain. I tried to get a little closer to see, but the only thing I noticed was that incredi-

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bly, on this razor like rock path, they were barefoot. Not to worry though since I saw the same plants for sale that Saturday at the local open air market. I did not dare ask the price because once you get entangled in the bargaining, you are expected to make the purchase and not walk away. I freely admit to lusting after those plants which gave me a little understanding of why wild orchids are in such dire shape.

Closer to home there are also thieves among us. One of my volunteer activities is to teach grade school kids at the Mason Creek portion of the Federal Wildlife Refuge in Homosassa. Along the trails there were several nice specimens of the Greenfly orchid (Epidendrum magnoliae). I pointed them out to the kids and chaperones and we spent a few minutes talking about what a "refuge" is for. Evidently someone thought the Refuge was for pilfering, because the orchids that were within reach were gone within a week. Florida's laws about collecting orchids are muddy but extracting anything from a national wildlife refuge is a crime. I've learned my lesson; keep the location of anything worth taking to yourself .

So now I sit here "catastrophizing" about all the other possibilities. We all raise so called "complex hybrid" orchids that include genes from several genera that are beautiful and unique. Are these plants with their load of foreign genes a threat to native species? Could they become the GMOs (genetically modified organisms) of the orchid world if their pollinia find a friendly flower? Scientists have taken glow in the dark genes from jellyfish and successfully placed them in little aquarium zebrafish sold everywhere. How about a transgenic glow in the dark orchid? I'm not obsessing about these things (yet) and we all know there is no stopping technology especially when profit is involved.

To balance things a bit, now is the time for some good news. Thankfully there are a number of organizations working to stem the tide of orchid obliteration. They can't do much to reverse climate change. Half of all US orchids are endangered including our own Cranefly and Ghost orchids. Then there is the Florida Oncidium found only in 3 counties (Everglades) that can grow to 8 ft. At our last outing to Joy Orchids Joyce pointed out some native orchids growing in her front yard. I don't have much experience with Florida native orchids, but I do remember talking to kids in my classroom up north about orchids in the Adirondacks only to be presented with a full bouquet of pink lady slippers the next day by some well meaning students. I had told them it was illegal to pick or transplant them but they said, "they're only flowers" to which I countered "How would you like someone to pick off your "reproductive organs" and that seemed to get their attention.

The CITES treaty on endangered species has 120 signatory nations but things still seep through the cracks including a guy from Indonesia named Harto Kolopaking who got busted for bringing in 1,500 paphs. to San Jose CA. and trying to sell 216 of them to an undercover federal agent. The penalty was 5 months in prison but I'm trying to imagine what other inmates said when they heard what he was incarcerated for (You got prison for that?).

There are several organizations that are doing wonderful work in this area and I encourage you to look at their web sites to understand the struggle. The NAOCC (North American Orchid Conservation Center (web. address-**northamericanorchidcenter.org**) has partnered with Smithsonian and other organizations to help establish seed banks and protect habitats. From what I can find out our efforts to protect temperate orchids are pitiful compared to other endangered species. That may be one reason why a beautiful orchid like the Dragon's Mouth is thought to be found only in captivity. But the situation is far worse for many orchids too numerous to mention. Let me pick out just a few who's fate seems to be sealed. Since Paphiopedilums are not easily mass produced, they are at the top of the list along with close seconds, Masdevallias and Draculas. For me one of the saddest examples is the island nation of Madagascar where just about everything is unique and endemic. If you're like most nature lovers the sight of Madagascar's Ringtail Lemurs always brings a smile, but deforestation and subsistence farming are about to bring and end to Angrae-

Angraecum sesquipedale

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cum orchids found no where else. Angraecum sesquipedale is the poster child of this group. It is, of course. the orchid Darwin saw and predicted a pollinator (found later to be a hawk moth) with with a one and one-half foot long tongue to sip nectar from the spur nectary of this amazing white waxy evening scented beauty. I wonder what Darwin would think of its plight now? The ICUN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) has made it a top conservation priority but the tide of humanity is probably stronger especially since poverty can be such a strong motivator. Our parent organization ,The American Orchid Society (AOS), strongly supports orchid conservation and has a portion of it's website devoted to efforts to line breed threatened orchids like Cattleyas mossiae and dowiana. It's also apparent that they don't have the money to do much else other than offer moral support.

One of the most interesting efforts out of California is Orchid Conservation Alliance **(orchidconservationalliance.org)** which has several project in Equador especially devoted to Phrags. It was interesting to see that their budget for these efforts was under 30K. which compared to the efforts of big conservation outfits supporting animal projects like WWF (World Wildlife Fund), is pocket change. There is also Orchid Conservation International based out of the famous Kew Gardens in London. They are currently supporting an effort to save Cymbidium whiteae in the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Sikkim. Hugely collected, it is now confined to a single patch of forest. Likewise they are working on preserving Paph. fairrianum in Bhutan.Their website is: **(orchidconservation.org)**. They even have some projects based in UK schools. If you are more the grassroots type you will get a big kick out of The Orchid Conservation Coalition(**(orchidconservationcoalition.org).** They have a program asking 1% from each orchid club for orchid conservation. The agreement is for clubs like ours but the actual organization is unincorporated and handles no funds. Their website and philosophy is fascinating and they have attracted worldwide attention.

Cymbidium whiteae

Paph. farrianum

Finally there's that prize winning essay in the June issue of the AOS journal Orchids. It is a wonderfully written tribute to one woman's effort to save the Angraecoid orchids of Madagascar and Africa. In case you have not read it, she is Sarah Waddoups and has formed a group called the Angraecoid Alliance dedicated to preserving these rare orchids ex situ in hopes of their reintroduction to preserves in the wild. Her search for some of the Angraecums she calls "Angraecoid Go Fish" owing to the fact that many of these rare species are hidden in collections world wide. Her essay really tugs at the heart a bit when she describes trying to link up growers and botanical institutions that may exchange, seed pods and cultural information before it is too late. Without her efforts some of these plants might disappear in captivity or be the victims of hybridizers.

Right now I am wondering how many of us may have a rare species in our collections without even realizing it? Perhaps, if you look on one of those rare plant websites you will find a match with something you are already growing. As you can see, efforts to collect data about rare orchids in captivity and in the wild are still in their infancy. So I am feeling a little guilty about what wild orchids have done for me, while asking myself what have I done for them? I'm wondering if our club might eventually like to participate in the 1% for wild orchids program. Save the Whales succeeded why not Ms. Waddoupps efforts to Save the Angraecums? We certainly do not want orchids to suffer the same fate as many animal species that are now only reside in zoos. As that 60s musical group, the Troggs once sang: Wild Thing.....I think I Love You !

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Editors note;
Judy and I were aware of the Greenfly (Epidendrum magnoliae) and bronzefly in the old Homosassa area. We walked trails in the mason Creek section mostly looking for fishing spots and finding the orchids was a bonus. In and around the Sugar Mill ruins you will find them as well but up in the trees 20 to 30 feet off the ground. Probably why they are still there.

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A few years ago when we had 5 hurricanes in a row, many trees were blown down in Old Homosassa. People who had trees down could pile them in front of their property and the county would come along and pick up the debris and either take it to the chipper at the land fill or the incinerator.

Upon reading this, Judy and headed for Homosassa to check on the area where we knew the orchids were. Sure enough, many were down along the road and headed for the final disposal of the trees. We collected all of the fly's we could along with the bark they were attached to and the resurrection fern that they apparently like growing in. We tried to transplant them to the oak trees around our home but the squirrels would not allow it, so she mounted them on cypress, cork and various other things and they are doing well, not in the wild but at least they survived certain destruction. We hoped that they would propagate and eventually get started in the trees around here. The ones we collected were not in a refuge but on property the county owned or some unknown property owner the tree had fallen on.

We have found other places the orchids seem to thrive in such as the old Mansfield ruins off 491 and a really nice walking trail up in Yankeetown.

Sorry, I got on a roll there and it is sad the orchids you say were gone in a week. Chances are they will not be cared for properly even though they are wild, having been disturbed they may not like there new surroundings.

<>

Chef's Cromer

OLIVE OIL BAKED SHRIMP

SERVES 4
2 LBS. LARGE SHRIMP (PEELED & DEVEINED)
3 TBSP. CHOPPED GARLIC
½ CUP EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
4 TBSP. LEMON JUICE
2 TSP. SALT
1 TBSP. RED PEPPER FLAKES
3 TBSP. CHOPPED PARSLEY
¼ CUP CHOPPED FRESH TOMATOES
¼ CUP WHITE WINE

PREHEAT OVEN TO 375
COMBINE ALL INGREDIENTS IN AN OVEN-SAFE SAUTE PAN& BAKE FOR 10 MINS.
I SERVE OVER ANGEL HAIR PASTA

NOTE: 1 POUND OF SHRIMP IS SUFFICIENT FOR 3 PEOPLE

Events of interest

Regular club meeting and open house at Joy's orchids.

6060 Casson St. Brooksville, Florida 34604 352-799-8369

State Road 50 East. Go under the Suncoast Parkway (589)
Slight right onto WISCON
Second right onto ARIZONA
Right onto FORZANDO
Left onto CASSON 6060 Casson

Spring Hill Drive East
Left onto CALIFORNIA ST (across from Post Office)
Left on FORZANDO
Left on CASSON 6060 Casson

@@ Map Quest will use the streets Dracena and Sago to get you to Casson. Those streets have been made private @@ (Map on page 8)

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(Events Continued from page 7)

Louis Del Favero is having a sale July 21st. Featherstone Orchids and B&D Orchids are guest vendors. Sunday 9 AM until 3 PM.

South on Suncoast Parkway to Veterans Parkway exit 9 Gunn Highway, turn Left. Go 1/2 a mile turn left on Cain Road, it is the third left from Veterans Pkw. turn left go down to Gant turn left. Nursery is on right. There will be signs.

People can call my cell 270 4871 for directions.
ED

July In Your Orchids

Based on AOS monthly checklists by Robert Scully and Ned Nash & James Rose, adapted to St. Augustine by local growers. Re-printed by permission of the St. Augustine Orchid Society

The heat and humidity of summer are here. Orchid plants require the most water and fertilizer this month to produce the most growth. They require lots of fresh air to keep the plant leaves cool. Consider spraying under benches or the planting area to lower temperatures a few degrees. Pests are most active during the warm months. Be vigilant in observing signs of damage and treat quickly if they appear. The bulk of your repotting should be complete.

Cattleyas

Cattleyas can be watered and fertilized daily if mounted or every second or third day if in a coarse, freely draining medium. Be careful to peel back the flower sheaths so the emerging buds don't rot. Also, remove dried cataphylls to eliminate hiding places for scale. Watch for signs of pests or diseases and respond quickly.

Cymbidiums

Cool your plants in the early morning and late evening using a hose or automatic misting system set to come on at 7 in the morning and 6:30 in the evening for 5 minutes each time. Use pots with a 1-inch water reservoir in the bottom or set the pots in shallow pans to ensure that the cymbidium is never without water.

Dendrobiums

It is almost impossible to over water dendrobiums this time of year, assuming you have them either mounted or in a coarse, mostly inorganic medium.

Phalaenopsis

Once root growth begins, you can continue watering every 3rd or 4th day with a dilute fertilizer solution if your phals are in a coco type mix; the frequency might be weekly if your plants are potted in the more water retentive sphagnum moss. Don't let water accumulate in the crowns of plants, or crown rot can occur and quickly kill your plants. If grown outdoors, grow the plants with the pots tilted so rainwater will freely drain from the crown.

Vandas

Continue giving vandas what they want, light, water, fertilizer and air. Watch for signs of thrips that will mar the flowers and cause girdling on the roots. Respond promptly to any problems found.

ORCHID AND CLUB NAME EMBROIDERED ON YOUR SHIRT

Have 'your' shirt embroidered with our club's name and a beautiful orchid. Information will be at the attendance desk each month. Orders must be prepaid. Shirts must also be pre-washed. When we have a reasonable size order it will be sent in. Hopefully by October.

Sonia Terrelonge

Show Table

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

Blue Ribbon (s)

Linda Roderick (12 yr.)	Rhy.	Gigantea
Sue Caparbi-Taylor (5 yr.)	E.	Tampensis
Gary Gethen (23 yr.)	B. Blc. Wils.	Nodosa Tatarown Everglades
Kara Warnock (7 yr.)	C.	Gaskelliani

Honorable Mention

Linda Roderick (12 yr.)	Ascda.	Ampilphylamun
Pat Dupke (22 yr,)	Phal.	Equestris
Jeff Rundell (30 yr.)	V. E.	Sensa Blue Atroniceum X Bractescens
Gary Gethen (23 yr.)	L. Vasco. V.	Purpurata Thaiand Prachara's Delight
Judy Smith (13 yr.)	C. Epc..	leopoldi ?
Sue Caparbi-Taylor (5 yr.)	Ascda.	Suksamian X Sunlight
Yati Douglas (12 yr.)	Den. Max.	Den Tanii Maxtenafoli
Dan Grant (10 yr.)	Pot.	Love Chant

Collectively these growers have **134** growing years experience.

The Keiki
7918 W Flight Path Ct.
Crystal River, FL 34429