Happy Mother's Day!

The Keiki

Remember Our VETERANS

Volume 22 *May 2013 Issue* *May 10, 2013*

OFFICERS

President:
Geary Harris
727-856-0222
bibleman1948@yahoo.com

1st Vice President:
Donna Frazekas
727-457-8661

2nd Vice President:
Sonia Terrelonge
352-684-5810
sewingmom1@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:
Helen Battistrada
352-597-0380

Executive Secretary:
Pat Dupke
727-856-3485
pdupke@aol.com

Recording Secretary:
Sue Caparbi-Taylor
352-688-1463
scaparbi@tampabay.rr.com

Membership:
Linda Meyer
727-808-3008
mmimilinda@aol.com
Sarah Hart
352-688-0344
shart120@tampabay.rr.com

Publicity/Librarian:
Linda Roderick
352-597-3736
lmroderick@earthlink.net

Historian:
Linda Hindman
352-597-1571
hindmanl@bellsouth.net

My True Story

By Tim Smith

It is only fair that after asking for everyone's bio, that I submit my own such as it is. So here is My True Story.

First of all, I do not own any orchids but that does not prevent me from enjoying there beauty and fragrance. Judy has 300 +/- that I can go into her greenhouse and be astounded by the colors and diversity of the many different orchids. The fact of the matter is, I do not have a green thumb.

I do, however, have a skill that has been a benefit to Judy as well as the club. I am really into building things and solving logistical problems from time to time.

When she first started getting into orchids, I thought that was good and soon one turned into two and two turned into.....well you get my drift here.

One day she said to me, "I need a place to hang my orchids in the winter". So I installed pipes along the inside wall of our pool lanai and all was good. Our pool has a solid roof and is solar heated so there was enough heat coming from the pool that pretty well kept the temperature above freezing and that was good except for the days that were below freezing for long periods of time. Then the orchids came into the house.

Soon after, I saw her looking at a spot out by the well and said, "this would be a good place for an arbor to hang my orchids in the summer". So a truck load of lumber and paving stones later, she had a 14'X14' arbor to hang her orchids in.

By this time her collection had grown to 50 or more due to her joining the S.H.O.L.C and I, even though a novice, could see that her new hobby was running out of space.

When we bought this house, it had a bird aviary attached to the master bath and she thought with just a few modifications, could be a greenhouse for her. So, a overhead watering system, wired for heat, and plenty of places to hang and enjoy her hobby in the winter was in the works. I was beginning to sense a pattern here.

(Continued on page 5)

Treasure's Report
By
Helen Battistrada

Balance 03/16/13	$ 3845.57
Receipts	$ 198.00
Total	$ 4035.57
Disbursements	$ 602.57
Balance 4/20/13	$ 3441.00

Upcoming Speaker Program
By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

May

Gary Gethen and Jeff Rundell' presentation of "How Green Is Our Orchids".

Members may bring plants to sell.

Membership

By Linda Meyer *&* *Sarah Hart*
Membership Coordinators

84 Paid members.
42 Members March attendance
13 Guest
4 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 APRIL 20, 2013

President, Geary Harris called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm.

Greeting of new members and visitors.

Old business:

Trip to Redlands: only 3 people are interested, not enough to rent a van.

New business:

Eleanor Szarzynski passed around the sign up sheet for refreshments thru the year.

Business cards were available to hand out. Put your name & phone # on the card prior to handing them out.

Geary passed a thank you from Sara Hart.

Geary spoke about the need for a picnic committee. Vera Wells, Donna Fazekas & Jeanne Cricchio volunteered. Vera offered her house for the picnic.

We have a new website that should be up & running soon.

Linda Meyer stated if anyone has a change of phone #, address, e-mail, etc. to please let her know so records could be updated.

There is a frame for pictures of members' plants that bloomed in between meetings so they can be seen by all.

Please ensure all cell phones are turned off.

Here is a need for people to back up regular members who are absent from any meetings to handle the raffle, membership table, recording secretary, etc.

Linda Roderick & Sara Hart have orchids for sale. Please contact them if interested.

There will be no speaker for the May meeting. There will be a panel of experts to answer questions about orchids.

Judges chosen for show table.

Break.

Delia Dunn of the nominating committee stated that they have a panel ready to nominate at the May meeting. The election & installation of officers will be at the June meeting.

Show table.

Speaker Donny Stoner spoke about hanging orchids in baskets.

Raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sue Caparbi-Taylor

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

May
Laurie Ciannamea
Rianda Schultz

Soft Drinks
Al Fiore
Sue Caparbi-Taylor

Please welcome our newest members.

Don and Kathy Stoner
9418 Penrose Ct.
New Port Richey, FL 34654

Michael Wells and Vera Bystry-Wells
16139 Sam C Rd
Brooksville, FL 34613

GUEST SPEAKER SEGMENT

by Delia Dunn

File photo

Donny and Kathy Stoner own Touch of Orchids and More in New Port Richie. They have an interesting location surrounded by trees and have several growing areas and greenhouses to explore. Donny's forte is making baskets and rafts of all shapes and sizes from treated cedar; he shapes wire into round, cone shaped or triangular 'baskets'; they also carry supplies such as varied sizes of cork, tree fern mounts, wood slabs, dried wood chunks, and an assortment of orchid pots. His baskets are made to accommodate different plants' growth habits and they are hanging in different places and on trees, making unusual displays. He and Kathy brought several of their baskets to show and to sell as well as many of their different plants.

Donny said that they initially started out with bare root plants and had no more than two choices to start. He had an Ansellia africana which is an air plant with roots that absorb water quickly and attach to branches of trees and therefore perfect for growing in an open basket. And when stanhopea and gongoras got their buds caught in the narrowly spaced slats of baskets he realized some other type was needed so he made baskets with larger spaces. He places coco fiber in and around the basket, to prevent medium from falling through.

How often you water depends on the type of plant; the airflow in the growing area has to be taken into consideration - open baskets that dry out faster might need to be watered and fed more often.

To show his versatility, he has a Ludisia discolor, which grows in soil, in a big wire basket with potting soil in it. The type of media all depends on what type of plant it is and how you want to grow the plant. For lining the bottoms of the baskets to prevent media from falling through, he uses various materials such as coco fiber or a plastic mesh which he gets from Home Depot and then fills it with Aliflor (a lightweight expanded clay aggregate with a neutral pH), charcoal, bark, lava rock, tree fern, pieces of clay pots, etc.

Clockwise from top right: tree fern, lava rock, Aliflor, sphagnum moss, osmunda, rockwool and fir bark in center.

If he's using a finer medium then he uses a shade cloth to line the basket. The smaller the medium, the finer the material used for lining. He also uses sheet moss (Home Depot has it) wrapped around the edges, or tied onto rafts, and even sphagnum moss. Coconut fiber gives better drainage, however. He uses floral wire or zip ties to hold the plants in.

Donny uses baskets for Cattleyas also. A bamboo skewer from the Dollar Store will hold the plant in the basket - after placing the plant in the medium carefully push the skewer through the basket from one side to the other, making sure it's firmly holding the medium down, then cut the end off the skewer on the other side of the basket. This will hold the plant firmly until the roots take hold. Question

(Continued on page 4)

The Presidents Message

By Geary Harris

Good news, we now have our own website. Go to orchid club of springhill.com. Be sure that you don't go to the old website which, is in the process of being deleted.

I want to thank Ken Dunn for doing a masterful job putting together our new website.

Thanks to Bob East, He is willing to be our web-master Any suggestions or things you would like to see on our website. Contact Bob East at east3@earthlink.net We are planning different events for the rest of 2013.Be sure you check out the Keiki and the website.

Geary

From Club Librarian, Linda Roderick

The Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill recently received two additions to the club library donated by former member Peggy Williams. Totally Orchids by Rob Cardillo and Ultimate Orchid by Thomas J. Sheehan are now available for check out. The library is located in a cabinet in the room next to the meeting room. Just select the books and magazines of your choice and write the name of the literature on an index card with your name and date.

Jeff Rundell

May Speaker Program

At our next meeting Jeff Rundell will be asking any volunteers to bring in a small sample of the water they use on their orchids. He will test it for TDS (total dissolved solids) and, possibly, pH. About 2 or 3 ounces in a clean container should do it and we'll plot the results on a local map. He will also be using a small black light (UVA) to look for hidden details on blossoms only pollinators can detect. Finally he will be discussing the sources of the materials we use to grow our precious plants especially potting media, chemicals, and containers so bring along anything you might have questions about. Call him at 352-503-7858 if you have any questions.

Gary Gethen

Gary Gethen is also part of the program and will be doing repotting of an Cattleya

(Speaker Continued from page 3)

from a member brought many ideas for a years old Cattleya overgrown in an old rotted basket and its new pseudobulbs hanging below the basket: leave the basket out of the equation and just hang the plant from a hook after removing the rotten wood pieces; or wrap the plant and basket in plastic mesh and hang with a hook threaded through the mesh; or cut the plant in two (well it's blooming now so have to wait on that); put a new basket underneath the plant tilting it on such an angle that will accommodate the large pseudobulbs in the new basket. He said that pseudobulbs will always try to turn to grow upwards so the basket or the plant should be hung on an angle so the bulbs are able to accomplish that easier.

Roots will always look for something to attach to and in a wooden basket it is easy for them to adhere to it as the wood holds moisture. Plastic baskets do not hold moisture and the roots will try to find their way back inside the slots to the medium.

Answering a question, he said that Cattleyas should be a light green to bloom. Give them more light if they are a dark green.

At his nursery, Donny has tall pressure treated poles with a Vanilla orchid and a Rhyncolaelia digbyana growing all the

(Continued on page 6)

(Story Continued from page 1)

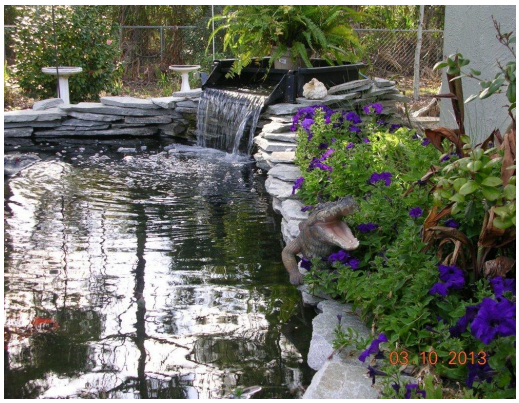
Well needless to say, she out grew that space within a year and was dropping hints that a bigger greenhouse was needed. So, a truck load of concrete, aluminum frame work, screen, and poly carb roofing later, she had an additional 10'X16' greenhouse with all the above mentioned amenities along with a remote temperature monitoring device.

Well a couple trips to Redlands and the road trips that the club has from time to time, the greenhouse attached to the house was full. Not much else could be done until the community we live in, dropped it's restrictions allowing people to have detached structures on there property. Soon after, I started hearing hints for a large greenhouse. Our property is just shy of an acre so we had plenty of room she said.

This was a pretty big deal because the Building Department and permits are involved now. A structure 16'X28' has to meet certain set back requirements as well as proper footing. We live within two miles of the Gulf so are considered in a high wind and flood zone in the event of a hurricane. Turned out all was good with the permitting department as they were only interested in the set back and how the greenhouse would be attached to the foundation. Being a draftsman of sorts, I did my own drawings and walked them through the permitting process. Step one complete. Long story short, a trip to Sarasota pulling a 16' trailer, she had another greenhouse. Auto watering, auto vents, auto heating, wireless temp. monitoring....I figured I was done. By the way, all houses are full at this time.

last year we were sitting on the back patio and she said to me, "their is a nice place for a pond." Turns out she has been thinking about this for a time. So, I get the shovel and the wheelbarrow and as Jackie Gleason used to say, "Away we go."

During all this, past President Ron Kilgore and I were talking about how difficult it was to arrange the clubs displays at the various shows the club participated in at that time. He mentioned that it would be nice to have a three tiered back drop made to the dimensions that were allowed at the various shows. I said I can do that. Two stipulations he put on it was it had to be a knock down and as light as possible in order to store it in the orchids shed the club had. The back drop was to fit into a 8'X10' space assembled but disassembled it amounted to a couple bundles plus the shelves. I made it out of PVC pipe that when the match marked pieces were lined up, you simply inserted a pin to hold it all together.



Well that worked pretty good then Ocala show came along. They reduced the size allocated to the venders as well as the other clubs participating. New problem, new solution. I had a smaller version of the same backdrop in time for the show only this time I made it out of wood and still very light.

A little over a year ago, then President Dave Dobson, had been doing the Keiki for many years. He did a really good job but with all the presidential tasks he had, wanted to give up publishing the Keiki. I told Judy we could do that and give Dave a break. It was not a spontaneous decision but we waited to see if any other member wanted to take on the responsibility because many were capable and no doubt do a good job. No one else stepped forward and since I had published newsletters for another club I belonged too, I figured we could pull it off but maybe, not quite the quality as Dave has done in the past. Well, Judy and I jumped in with both feet and have did the best we could. We only have had one complaint since we started. We enjoy doing the newsletter immensely and is just another way we support the club.

With that thought in mind, we would like to thank all of the members who have submitted there biography and other articles for publication in the Keiki. In my opinion, that alone has makes the newsletter what it is today. Thank you very much.

We charge nothing for our efforts, only ask the club to reimburse us for expenses. We save the club approximately $.40 per copy

(Continued on page 6)

(Story Continued from page 5)

compared to what a print shop would charge and the 24 members who opted to have the keiki delivered electronically saves the club $.90 per copy. This savings will be passed on to the membership through the various programs we have throughout the year.

So, I do not own a single orchid but that does not indicate that I have no interest in them. Just look at my track record.

Here is a thought, I could buy the orchid I want, tell Judy it's a gift to her and let her care for it but secretly, it would be mine.

(Speaker Continued from page 4)

way up them. His treated cedar rafts make wonderful bases for plants to attach to (ie) Vandas, Ascocendas and similar plants that have roots that hang down and don't need to be pot bound or in baskets. Orchids grow well when they feel really securely fastened to something and eventually their roots will attach to the wood. Donny says he uses something to get a plant started, a piece of clay for example to get a young Vanda started - something attached to the raft - sphagnum moss is another example.
A member asked if Vanda roots can be cut - yes, if they are really heavy and have about 12-15 long roots. But if they just have a few roots, don't cut them. Plants get 99% of their nutrition, apart from oxygen, through their roots. The key to healthy plants are healthy roots. Definitely cut off damage to the roots.

To stimulate growth of his plants he fills a plastic tub with Rhizotonic (made from seaweed) and is a powerful, algae based, vegetative stimulator for roots of fast-growing plants that already have roots started. It's full of vitamins and trace minerals, similar to Superthrive, found in stores here, and can be used the same way mixed with your fertilizer. Some people prefer just to pre-soak the plant in solution for a few minutes, but Donny pre-soaks the plant and after it's in the basket he soaks it again.

Ending, he said that we are welcome to visit there if we call first. He works M-F but they are open on weekends and Kathy might be available a couple of days mid week. Perhaps another field trip???

—<>—

Buy, Sell, Trade, & free stuff

If you have orchid plants, surplus supplies, or any orchid related items you want to dispense of, send you listing to The Keiki or call Judy @ 352-563-2288

- Sarah Hart announced at the last meeting that she would like to sell some of her orchid collection. These are quality plants she is selling as she and Jerry were very meticulous in their selection of orchids for their collection.
  Sarah can be reached at (352) 688-0344 or email shart120@tampabay.rr.com

- Linda Roderick has orchids for sale. Contact Linda at 352-597-3736 or email lmroderick@earthlink.net

- Pony Tail palm for sale. It is 42" tall. $35 OBO The plant stays outside all year, in a protected spot. If you are interested, please pick it up at my home. It is heavy. Call Barb Brillinger at 352- 597 -9946 or email brillinger@tampabay.rr.com

- New and never used, 8 inch In-Line Fan 720 CFM by Hydrofarm. More information can be seen at < www.hydrofarm.com/product.php?itemid=8097 >. $45 and will consider trade. Tim Smith at 352-563-2288 or email tsmith60@tampabay.rr.com

- As mentioned at the April meeting, Peggy Williams, a former club member now residing at Evergreen Assisted Living, has donated her plants to the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill. The orchids have been repotted and will be brought to the May 18 meeting at 12:15 and will be offered for sale with proceeds to the club. The healthy plants consists of 12 Mystery Cattleya in clay pots, 6 Oncidium sphacelatum in clay pots, and 3 Ascda. Ching Ping Kuen in wooden baskets. Prices vary from $3-$5.

Nominating Committee Report - Delia Dunn

As announced at the last meeting, we have a slate of Officers to present for election at the next meeting:

Geary Harris for President
Donna Fazekas for 1st Vice President
Sonia Terrelonge for 2nd Vice President
Pat Dupke for Secretary
Helen Battistrada for Treasurer

According to our ByLaws, 'Nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting (May), provided prior consent has been obtained from the nominee'.

If anyone is willing to run for any of these offices or if you would like to nominate someone else for one of these positions, please check with them first for their consent and we will ask for any nominations before the election at the next meeting.
Thank you.

May 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

General Orchid Growing Tips
Summer is right around the corner. Now is the time to maximize growth and develop the plant strength and food reserves needed for good flower production. Larger plants typically produce bigger and better flowers than smaller ones so resist the urge to divide your plants just for the sake of having more plants. Recycle your clay or plastic pots but be sure to sterilize them first along with any wire products. Do not reuse potting mix or drainage material.

Cattleyas
Get a head start on dividing cattleyas by severing the rhizome in whole or in part (at a point where you will have 3 to 5 pseudobulbs per division) with a sterile tool while the plant is still in the original pot. The new growths will emerge weeks later at which point you can finish repotting using a rhizome clip to secure the divisions. Continue feeding cattleyas with a dilute fertilizer solution with each watering and flush with fresh water monthly.

Cymbidiums
Finish repotting these elegant orchids if they are bursting out of the pot. If the medium is in good condition (just a year old), you may be able to move the plant from one container to another with the addition of a small amount of medium without disturbing the roots. Keep the pots moist and syringe the foliage frequently, particularly if you have moved the plant into brighter light.

Paphiopedilums
This is the ideal month to complete repotting of your lady's slippers. Prepare a fresh terrestrial mix (say 85% bark, 10% peat and 5% charcoal). Remove dead roots and keep as many growths together as practical. The single flowered types should be in shade though the multiflorals like more light. Keep root zone moisture levels high (though Brachypetalum types generally like drier conditions).

Phalaenopsis
Repotting plants that have finished flowering is a priority. When you repot, remove the old inflorescence and eliminate all rotten or completely dehydrated roots and cut the roots back to about 2/3 the depth of the new pot. Remove also the dried bottom section of the old crown until you reach fresh tissue. Resume fertilizing when new roots become visible. Consider a spraying program with a recommended fungicide.

Vandas
Some plants may need more room for root development. If your plant is in a wooden basket, simply drop it into a larger size basket. If your plant has become top heavy and unsightly, cut away the top part of the plant as long as this section has three roots to sustain it and rebasket it being careful to secure it so roots will not be damaged in the wind. Keep the bottom section of the plant in the old basket as it will usually sprout keikis at the base and be well established by the end of the summer.

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)

Vera Wells (10 yr.)	Cym.	?
Jeff Rundell (30 yr.)	Tolu.	Sunset Rose
Gary Gethen (23 yr.)	Epi.	Mabel Kinda
Dan Grant (10yr.)	Max. tenuifolia	
	Blc.	Beauty Girl
Judy Smith (13 yr.)	Phal.	Shillerana
	Den.	Chry Satoxon

Honorable Mention

Donna Fazekas (4 yr.)	Blc.	Morning Song
Pat Dupke (21 yr.)	Asctm.	Cyrnifolium
	Coel.	Parishi
Gary Gethen (23 yr.)	Bc.	Sunny Delight 'Maj"
	Epi.	Atro-purdureum
	Asctm.	Ampullaceum
	Ascda.	Butterfly
	V.	Tricolor
Laura Newton (7 yr.)	C.	Aciandiae
	Den.	Trigonopus
	Asctm.	Ampullacevn 'Mr. Del Rei'
	Lyc.	Jan Ragan
Carol Monroe (20 yr.)	Den.	Chrysotoxum
	Den.	Nestor
Thomas Garvin (8yr.)	C.	Iwan Appleblossom Mendenhall
	C.	Slc Jewelbox Scherazde

Collectively these growers have **146** growing years experience.

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