The Keiki

Volume 22 August 2014 Issue August 11, 2014

OFFICERS

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

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

2nd Vice President, Editor:
Gary Gethen
352-515-3874
kwadigdnr@aol.com

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

Publicity / Librarian:
Sarah Hart
352-848-5305
shart161@tampabay.rr.com

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

Speaker Section By Delia Dunn

Part One Of Kerry Richards Part II Next Month

Kerry Richards is an orchid breeder from Miami and owner of the famous *World of Orchids* in Kissimmee, until a hurricane came through and basically wiped out the business. Now Kerry is retired and loves to fish especially on Saturday!! But fortunately for us, his favorite orchid is the Paphiopedilum (Paph.) and so he was willing to speak on the breeding and cultivation of that plant. Kerry's wife actually got them started with orchids when she bought the very first one and the next thing they knew they were busy learning lots of orchid names.

Paphs are composed of over 70 species. The first species to be introduced was Paph. venustum, which flowered for the first time in cultivation in 1819 in England. A big frenzy started in Europe and nurserymen started sending collectors to get more of these plants which were reaching top prices at the time. Even after 150 years of cultivation and collecting, new species are still being discovered on a regular basis **P**aphiopedilum derives from the Greek 'Paphos', an alternative name for Aphrodite or Venus, the goddess of love, and 'pedilon' meaning slipper. The genus Paphiopedilum, along with the genera Cypripedium, found in North America and the Phragmipedium and Selenipedium from South America. The two are related but not interbred. Their structure is too different. They all belong to the sub-family Cypripedioideae, all of them bearing a characteristic lip shaped like a pouch, slipper-like and resembling the look of the shoes that ladies wore, hence the common name, 'Lady's Slipper'. They can be hybridized 99.99% of the time; a primary hybrid is a cross between 2 species. The first man-made hybrid, Paphiopedilum Harrisianum (villous crossed with barbatum) flowered in England in 1869. Since then thousands of new hybrids have been bred and registered, and with the discovery of new species, new breeding lines are still appearing. In talking about the different species he stated that he'd never seen a Phragmidpedium crossed with a Paphiopedilum.

(Continued on page 4)

Treasure's Report
By
Helen Battistrada

Balance 06/21/14	$ 5,372.73
Receipts	$ 204.55
Total	$ 5,577.28
Disbursements	$ 415.20
Balance 7/18/14	$ 5,162.08

Upcoming Speaker Program
By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

August
Hick's Orchid Supply

September
Joy's Orchids

Membership

By Linda Meyer
Membership Coordinator

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

YOU ARE INVITED
Open Greenhouse @ Joy Orchids

Please Come Join Us For a Great Time!

Date: Sat. Sept. 20th ~ 10am to 3pm
10 to 11~ we will have Coffee and Donuts
Noon ~ Lunch of Cold Chicken, Salads and Drinks
** Lecture During Lunch **
~ Plant Raffle after lunch ~
Please come enjoy Our Greenhouses and Company Of Orchid Enthusiasts and Guest Vendor ~Touch of Orchids
Address and Directions
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 @@

Please bring your own chairs if possible.
If it rains we can go into the Greenhouses or Joyce's house
Contact Joyce (number above) or Kathy 727-243-4206 for anymore information
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !

At the July Meeting we had 7 guest sign in and 41 members, including 2 new members who joined that day. We are happy to welcome: Connie Chase, 7322 Clear Meadow Dr., Spring Hill. 352-688-3913 craechase@aol.com & Pamela Clark 9281 Belvedere St., Spring Hill. 352-683-0409 pamclark1948@hotmail.com

Both these new members supported the club by buying raffle tickets, and both were lucky winners! Thank You! Linda Meyer

Refreshment Reminder

By Eleanor Szarzynski, *Refreshment Coordinator*

352-688-3887

August

Thomas Govin
Lois Jensen
Bobbie LeMay
Kara Warnock
Richard Schultz

THANK YOU!

Frequently Asked Questions -

Q. After the flowers have died, should I cut off the flower spike?

A. Of all the more commonly available Orchids, only Phalaenopsis (the moth orchid) will rebloom given a little extra care. When the last flower fades, you can leave the spike (stem) on and it will still continue flowering but the stem gets very ungainly and the flowers get smaller. Some people believe it is best to cut off the stem entirely at the base where it comes out of the leaves, and it will bloom again in

(Continue on pg. 4

July Meeting Minutes

by Our Very Detailed

Contributor—Delia Dunn

ORCHID LOVERS' CLUB OF SPRING HILL (OLCSH)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING JULY 19, 2014

President, Geary Harris, opened the meeting at 1:05 pm, welcoming 7 guests who signed in and 41 members including 2 new members. Birthdays for the month were recognized

TREASURER'S REPORT: Helen gave the Treasurer's Report starting with a balance of $5,372.73, receipts of $204.55 and disbursements of $415.20, leaving a balance of $5,162.08.

Members were asked to sign a poster with photos, which will be framed for Dave Dobson, who has done so much for our Club over many years as past President, Keiki publisher, speaker, plant doctor, not to mention the very beautiful plants he always brought in for the Show Table.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Geary again put out a request for **Publicity** Chairman with some description of what the job entailed. Sarah Hart volunteered for the position.

Gary Gethen, our new **Keiki** publisher, asked if everyone got their copy of the Keiki that he'd send out via e-mail. Anyone who did not should let him know.

Geary wanted everyone to know the address for the club website again, which is www.springhillorchidclub.com and Delia encouraged everyone to look at the website and the pictures on there from all our events and reminded everyone that Bob East puts the next speaker always on the Home Page of the site and we should check it out. Membership Chairman, Linda Meyer, reminded everyone that she had the little purple Club business cards with our website address on the back, and that we should all take some to pass out wherever we go.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Hicks Orchid Supplies will be coming in August so we should make our list of potting supplies and fertilizers that we need.
Joy Orchids Open House will be in September and she will have coffee and donuts for breakfast when we arrive. Touch of Orchids will also be there selling plants. For lunch, Joyce will furnish cold chicken, salads, water and soda. A flyer is on the table to be picked up. A reminder also that we should bring a chair in case there aren't enough to go around. This is a member's only event.
(Cont. Pg 7)

President

Geary Harris

727-856-0222

Bibleman1948

@yahoo.com

Q & A Continued

several months. You can also cut off the stem leaving two nodes (those little brown lines on the stem below where the flowers were) on the stem. One of these nodes will then initiate and generally produce flowers within 8 -12 wks. Orchids, like animals, are susceptible to viruses, so whenever cutting an orchid—always use a sterile tool to prevent the spread of virus. A single edged razor blade is a good tool to use for cutting flower spikes. Use ground cinnamon on fresh cuts.

August is upon us! I am sure through out the Spring and Summer, your Orchid supplies are getting low but, don't worry—because we will have at our August meeting Hick's Orchid Supplies and they will have every thing you need for your Orchids. I also want to tell you our Orchid Show will be held at the VFW on County Line Road—West of the Dance Club. September will also be exciting because we will take a trip to Joy Orchids for our meeting. So don't miss out—See you in Aug

(Continued from Page 1—monthly speaker)

He mentioned that the Holy Grail of orchid breeding is a pure white flower, and nobody has done it yet. That's probably all you need to know if you have glorious visions of breeding the perfect Paphiopedilum. OR imagine the flower you would like to see pollinated. Then find out that you have to wait 7 - 10 years to see your 'creation' bloom. However, that has been Kerry's greatest satisfaction as an orchid grower, and he talked quite a bit about the very intricate breeding of these plants.

There are two types of Paph, a warm growing variegated or mottled leaf type and **the cooler growing green leaf type with single or multiple flowers.** It's very difficult to grow the cooler growing plant in Florida. And they are very temperature sensitive; he said that when he'd ship a plant from Florida to a cooler climate, the flowers would all fall off because of the change in temperature.

And there are 3 different flowering types: the single flowering type with longer lasting flowers; the complex type, or multiple flowering, which will bloom for 3 months; and the progressive or sequential flowering type that has one bloom and when that drops another takes its place, and so on. Most species, especially warm growers usually bloom in the spring; Complex hybrids are cool growing and bloom mostly during the winter season.

Most people want to see the flowers on a plant before they buy so they know what they are getting but there are people who want to buy a plant before it has ever bloomed and before the breeder can see the flowers, because if it turns out to be a very special flower he would naturally want to raise the price.

He talked about growers wanting to breed super plants that have vigorous growth, be resistant to disease, have bigger flowers and be easier to breed, one that would take 4 years instead of 7 years to get to blooming size. With the use of Colchicine, a plant extract, as a mutagenic, polypoids can be created. Polyploidy occurs in cells and organisms when there are more than two paired sets of chromosomes. Diploid bred to diploid have 4 sets of chromosomes. (A diploid is a cell or an organism with two sets of chromosomes, one set from each parent). Normal plants are diploids. Occasionally you'll find a triploid with 3 sets of chromosomes in their cells, or a tetraploid with 4 sets. ***

It takes 9 months to make a seed pod and from there it can be 7 to 9 years to get flowers and then they only sell for $10.00. He said he wouldn't recommend getting into the breeding business, it's just not worth it. In the old days of the cottage industries it was entirely different when you could charge a higher price, but today commercial plant growers have taken over and brought the prices down. They have no idea about viruses or how to recognize one. He advised great care when purchasing plants

(continued from page 4) about viruses or how to recognize one. He advised great care when purchasing plants from such places, especially with **Cattleyas and Phalaenopses.** He said that you can't look at a plant and tell if it has a virus and he told the story of how he dumped 500 plants into a dumpster believing they had a virus but someone pulled them out to have them tested and two different university testing facilities both came up with the conclusion that the plants did not have a virus. Of course it was too late to save them. He learned a very expensive lesson. If we were to have a virus it would not have the same significance as it would to a grower with thousands of plants.

He showed slides of various Paphs and gave description of their breeding with crosses between mottled type and green type in order to get a size change. He said it is very difficult to get good breeding plants but his advice is to concentrate on green type as more people want green as opposed to red. He has one he sells for $100 a pot and he made a hybrid from it and it did make a few plants but nothing more after that. He has a green Paph with a recessive gene but whenever he moves it, it causes bud blast so it's not working for him..

A hobby is meant to be enjoyed Kerry believes and does the most for his plants in the least amount of time so that he can have more free time for himself. He waters 1 acre 1 time a week instead of 3 times a week and grows in a medium such as sphagnum moss, because it stays moist, so results in the least amount of work! Kerry next goes into how to grow Paphs, which is relatively easy and they adapt to most conditions in the home, under lights, or in a greenhouse.

LIGHT is not a major problem as it is with many other types of orchid. A **Cattleya,** for example, depends on light for blooming. Paphs need low light - about 80% shade. Any window in the house is OK as long as it's not in the sun, which will cook a bud before it even opens and the bark will dry out. Fluorescent light gives excellent results with 2 - 4 tubes positioned just above the leaves.

TEMPERATURE: Paphs are tropical plants and go dormant below 60 deg. They do well in a cool house and they need to stay moist. The warm growing types do well between 60 at night - 80 degrees or more in the daytime. The cool growing types do well between 55 at night to 80 in the daytime. Most Paphs will do well if kept to those temperatures and not overheated during the summer months. They are fairly resistant and can tolerate night temps in the 40s if necessary if grown outside in mild climates and up to 95 deg. But take care to protect the plant from rot when temps are low. Humidity should be kept low and no water should be left to sit on leaves or in the crowns of the plants. To protect the leaves from burning when the temps are high the shading should be heavier and humidity and air movement should be increased. If you grow your plants under artificial lights you should keep in mind that night and day temperature variation is beneficial for good growth and flowering. Allow them to go to 50 deg. in a shaded room in the winter.

(He threw in interesting tidbits: **Cymbidiums** can be grown outside all year and simply covered up during a cold spell. **Phalaenopses** have to drop 10 degree in north windows to shock them into blooming.)

WATER: Paphs store water in their leaves since they don't have pseudobulbs, or roots that hold water like a Vanda. Water must be constantly available at the plant's roots, which for most orchids acts as a reservoir. Bark has to be watered every 2 - 3 days. Medium should be kept moist but not soggy and should never be dry for more than a day or two; never let the plant completely dry out, and in hot weather it should be kept moist at all times. In the home keep humidity up by setting plants on trays of gravel partially filled with water and don't let the plants sit in the water. In a greenhouse average humidity is adequate, spraying the floor to increase humidity and help to keep the plants cool. Air movement is essential when humidity is high. Air movement can cause bud blast pulling water out of the skin, losing water faster than it can take it in so it's being dehydrated. (Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) water faster than it can take it in so it's being dehydrated. If a bud is wrinkled it is dehydrated! Most water is OK to use but not distilled, contrary to what you might have heard or read, because it has no minerals in it. He made a joke about books not being written by people who grow orchids.

FERTILIZER must be applied on a regular basis but avoid burning the fleshy, hairy roots, which are very sensitive to high concentrations of salts. He says use the lease amount of food to produce growth. Excess fertilizer can cause brown spots and die back of the tips of the leaves. He likes 30-10-10 for fast growth and especially for fir bark as part of the nitrogen is lost to the bacteria degrading the bark. But the plant needs a good balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20 if it is mature or flowering, otherwise it pushes it to rooting and not flowering. He prefers that formulation himself and the plant will use what it needs for roots, leaves or blooms. It will discard what it does not need. In warm weather, half-strength applications every two weeks can be given or alternately quarter-strength every watering. REMEMBER: THE LESS WORK YOU DO, THE MOST ENJOYMENT YOU HAVE! So Kerry fertilizes once every 3 weeks.

In cool weather fertilizer can be reduced to once a month. It's important to flush the plant regularly with clear water every 3rd or 4th watering to prevent a build-up of salts in the medium that can burn the roots. A bloom booster fertilizer with a higher middle number like 10-30-20 can be used in late summer and fall to promote flowering and stronger growth. It shocks the plant into blooming. Kerry said that calcium in the water is good but many calcium salts in water are not available to plants so you could add a little crushed oyster shells, a small amount of dolomite lime or crushed granite or marble, or use a fertilizer that has Calcium and Magnesium in it. He doesn't recommend adding limestone to the potting medium as it dissolves rapidly in cold water.

POTTING should be done every year or as needed when the medium starts to decompose, disturbing the plant as little as possible. When you cut a plant sterilize it 30 minutes in a Clorox solution or with heat, which is the fastest way. Heat your cutters on both sides and when you immediately cut the plant it will hisssss as you do it. The cauterizing itself sterilizes the cut. A good medium is charcoal but it needs more water such as 3 times a week.

Bark breaks down in 1 year, becomes very soft and robs the plant of nitrogen and then the plant won't grow well. An ammonium nitrate mix with bark will help the plant grow well.

Potting is to personal taste, depending on your growing conditions and watering habits. Clay pots outside dry fast. Plastic is good for indoors. He uses plastic as it stays moist longer than clay, it saves him time with watering, sterilizing AND it's easier to pop the plant out for re-potting just by squeezing the sides of the pot. Clay pots have capillary tubes in them and algae gathers on the outside of clay pots so really it's as bad as a plastic pot in that the pot cannot breathe nor dry out. You need to sterilize a clay pot longer as the fertilizer salts gather in the capillaries and plug them. He said it's very important to have the proper name of the plant when you buy one and explained that when someone would ask him about one of their plants and how to grow it, it certainly worked a lot better when trying to give advice if he knew the whole name of the plant and not just the type. So be sure to keep the tag that came with the plant and when re-potting put the tag back into the new pot.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Paphs are not subject to a lot of pests and diseases but still a close watch must be kept on the plants, especially under the leaves, as the sooner a problem is noticed, the easier it is to solve. There are a few things to keep in mind, such as a healthy plant will be much more resistant to any pests and disease, but also the greenhouse or growing area should be kept clean. All dead leaves and flowers should be disposed of, which will prevent any infection or infestation nest for pests. Plants with problems should be isolated from the other ones. As a prevention plants can be treated once or twice a year with a systemic insecticide. They can get mealybugs, aphids, slugs and snails, woodlice, milipedes, spider mites, false spider mites and thrips. He likes Neem Oil a lot, says to stay away from the serious chemicals that are cancer causing like Malathion. Use a general miticide, fungicide, bactericide and still he advises, wear gloves, mask, and make sure you protect your skin and wash after use. He prefers to use hydrogen peroxide or cinnamon powder on bacteria or to prevent bacteria after cutting a plant. A good fungicide will control a fungus or the same two products previously mentioned. Viral infections are not common in Paphs.

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(Continued from page 3—July Meeting Minutes)
Linda Meyer reminded guests that if they would become a member they could attend all our fun events.
Our **annual Picnic** in October will be at Vera Wells' home as it was last year and Vera announced that it would be similar to last year as it went so well. Everyone will bring a dish, there will be a Show Table and a Raffle. This is also a members only event.
There will be a **field trip** sometime in October and Gary will have more information on that.
Our **Auction** will be i**n** November. This is open to the public.
Geary announced the new location for our **Orchid Festival** next year March 28 and 29 will be at the VFW Hall on the left hand side of the same road as the SNPJ Hall. Further information will be given a month or two before each of these events.
Our **Christmas Luncheon** will be held at Buffet City on State Road 50 in their party room. That will be December 13th, which is the 2nd Saturday at 12:00 noon. This is a members only event.

Break for refreshments while the Show Table was judged.

Geary announced for those interested that Gary Gethen would be doing a 15-minute talk and demonstration, after the meeting, on how to divide a Vanda.

SHOW TABLE blue ribbon winners were announced by Laura Newton.

SPEAKER was orchid breeder, Kerry Richards, whose topic was Paphiopedilums.

RAFFLE: Membership Chairman, Linda Meyer, held an incentive drawing for members who had signed in when they arrived. The regular raffle was held next. Kerry Richards, our speaker, donated plants for the raffle, which was greatly appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Delia Dunn in the absence of Sue Caparbi-Taylor.

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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.

Sonia Terrelonge

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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 their efforts. If you have an outstanding Orchid you would like to share with the rest of the club, we encourage you to bring it in for all to see. (In no particular order.)

Blue Ribbons

Barb Dean (15 Yrs.) Bulb makoyanum

Linda Meyer (5 yrs.) BC Nanipuakia Dogashina

Dale Story (18 yrs.) BLC Pall Polka Dot Nalo

Vanda, Gordon Dillon Lea x Asca. Suksamrom Spot

Pat Dupke (22 yrs.) Paph Niveum

Gary Gethen (24 yrs.) Rhychostylis Coelestis

Phrag Grande 4N x Caudatum

Honorable Mention

Vera Bystry-Wells (10 yrs.) Den. NOID

Onc. Paris

Patti (4 yrs.) BLC Majestic Light Hidden Treasure

Featherstone (26 yrs.) Vasco Baby Blue x Rhy Blue.

Judy Smith (14 yrs.) BLC Shanghai Jade

Dale Story—RSC Akiko Sato, Volcano Queen

Delia Dunn—BL Memoria Bernice Foster

BLC Rustic Spots x BL Richard Mueller X

C. Landate

Asco,.Suksamran Sunlight

Gethen had to many to list! :-)

Collectively these Growers have 138 Yrs.Total!

The Keiki
6223 NoDoc Rd.
Spring Hill, FL. 34609