



December 2015
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Advertising

OFFICERS

President

Jeff Rundell

1st Vice President

Geary Harris

2nd Vice President

Donna Fazekas

Treasurer

Helen Battistrada

Executive Secretary

Pat Dupke

Recording Secretary

Sue Caparbi-Taylor

THE KEIKI



ORCHID LOVERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015

WHERE: BUFFET CITY

13235 CORTEZ BLVD.

BROOKSVILLE, FL

TIME: 12:00 P.M.



PRICE: \$7.01 PLUS TAX EACH (BUFFET)
DRINKS: \$1.59 FOR SODA OR \$0.50 FOR HOT TEA

DESSERT WILL BE CHRISTMAS COOKIES PROVIDED BY CLUB MEMBERS (EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING A DOZEN COOKIES)

IN PLACE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE, MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING AN UNWRAPPED CHILD'S TOY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

For more information or questions please call
Pat Dupke @
(727) 856-3485



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January Members' Meeting on January 16th
at the VFW Hall at 18940 Drayton Street at
County Line Road 1:00 pm

Refreshment Reminder

by Laurie Cinnamea

For December

2015 Christmas Party

**DESSERT WILL BE CHRISTMAS COOKIES
PROVIDED BY CLUB MEMBERS (EVERYONE
IS ASKED TO BRING A DOZEN COOKIES)**



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Treasurer's Report

by Helen Battistrada

10/17/2015 Balance \$5,384.53

Receipts \$ 366.00

Disbursements \$ 344.13

Balance 10/17/15 \$5,405.40

Wow—"Over The Top"

I didn't think we could do it—Better than last year, which was best to date—But "You did it again"

\$2,445 Profit to the club—\$722 over last year!

Fabulous, Fantastic, Superb, Wonderful, I've run out of adjectives! A big THANK YOU!!! to all who participated and a special thanks to Pat for getting us this super location, and to Donna for her help keeping track of all the dollars. Same Time Next Year?

Helen

Thanks for Refreshments



I want to thank those members who brought either soda/juice, baked goods or fresh fruit for our refreshment table at the auction. As always they were enjoyed by our visitors.

I want to ESPECIALLY thank Ruth Redeker for her assistance with the refreshments; she is a great help. Thank you, Ruth! AND we cannot forget Sue Caparbi-Taylor who was helping at the auction both Friday and Saturday. She did a tremendous job helping to bring in and arrange the plants on Friday and helped with the clean-up on Saturday. THANK YOU SUE!

Pat Dupke



President's message

December 2015

I just finished what I hope is the last gasp of the thanksgiving turkey but let's get to what is really important. I have news about our auction, so turn your memory back to those tables filled with over 300 plants. As I gazed upon this mother load, the night before the sale, I felt confident that there was absolutely no way we were going to sell all of them at any price. I had even asked some members if they could take in the unsold orphans. When Helen Battistrada, our treasurer, called shortly after I got home, I could tell by the tone of her voice that not only did we sell them all but we made some money. After expenses the club made

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profit of \$2445.00 a gain of \$722.00 over last year. Since this is our major fundraiser, a profit like this will give us some room to make next year much more secure. I say this because the reality is that our former meeting place, the Partners Club, is history. I have spoken, face to face, with the CEO of Oak Hill hospital and he feels that it is unwise to invest in any repairs. As far as new construction, he said it will be at least a year until anything might be available. Fortunately **Pat Dupke** negotiated a reasonable rate for the VFW on County Line Rd. where we held our show in March. Our next meeting, on January 16th will be held in this larger comfortable facility.

We need to thank everyone that made the auction such a success (including the buyers). **Pat Dupke** was instrumental in allowing us to use her church. The Partners club would have never held so many plants and people. **Judy and Tim Smith** gave our legacy plants wonderful TLC over many weeks. **Julie Smolka** did a great job on Publicity and **Linda Hindman** handled logistics. Many of our members donated quality plants while **Helen Battistrada** and **Donna Fazekas** collected the cash. **Our local growers** also donated plants for the auction and we are always grateful for their support. There are **many more to thank**, and I'm proud of the club's cooperative effort to make this important event a great success.

We will all get a chance to celebrate together on Saturday, December 12th at our annual Christmas party. Don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy donation for those less fortunate. The unlimited food choices at Buffet City should keep everyone happy.

The warm weather has allowed my orchids to

remain outside even after I put up my Christmas lights. I'm sure the cold is on the way but, for now, I'm feeling the glow.

One more request: As a volunteer at the **Ellie Schiller Florida State Wildlife Park** here in Homosassa, one of my quests is to revitalize the park's greenhouse. I have just renewed a display of Florida epiphytes including air plants, ferns and native orchids. I have donated several of my Florida natives and you may have guessed I'm looking for more (or even some "close" hybrids). If you need to find out more about what is native, see the Florida native orchid websites. Any donations are tax deductible and will help educate the thousands of visitors that stream through the park. I hope you will all have a great holiday season and, if you've been good, Santa may bring you a *huge, rare, beautiful, blooming, everlasting, completely disease free insect resistant orchid.*

Jeff Rundell



President Rundell
with his book of
knowledge



RECENT FIELD TRIP

By Delia Dunn

For those of you who did not go on our Field Trip last month you missed a good day out. It was a glorious day with sun shining all day. We thoroughly enjoyed riding from place to place and the orchids were magnificent. Included here are just a few of the photos taken. Personally I think my favorite place was Suzanne Farnsworth's in Wiersdale, where we had lunch. If you've never been to that area it's worth going to and driving around. There is the famous Carriage Museum in that area; a great place to go and take your visitors. It displays carriages of all kinds going back to royalty and the carriages of kings and queens and all the many styles and makes. They also have carriage rides.

But, I've digressed! Back to the terrific place that Suzanne Farnsworth has overlooking Lake Wier - her greenhouse is a delight - so well sorted, all like orchids together and what a collection she had. The last time I went there years ago she had an amazing *Angraecum* hanging near the entrance from ceiling to floor and it was the first thing you saw when you went in. Well this year she had an enormous *Liparis* literally with its pot sitting in a bucket of water. The plant must have been 4' in diameter and 2' high and the bucket was tremendous. That was helpful to me since I have a *Liparis*, tiny in comparison, not doing well at all. Unfortunately mine is in a wooden basket so soaking it will cause a problem but I do water every day now. I see a plastic basket or a pot in its future!

Suzanne has many *miniature orchids* and most of them *mounted*. You could walk down an aisle of trellis work with plants mounted all around you and it felt like you were in a tunnel. She had beautiful *Cattleya* types blooming and *Phals* and *Oncidiums*. She even had chocolates lying around for the taking

right next to the fan!! That part I especially loved. Ken asked me how she knew I was coming. While cooling off in front of the fan and eating chocolates I was making up my shopping list. It didn't bother me a bit that I had to wait, because I'd stepped out of line long ago to stand by the fan.

After we all made our purchases and asked all our questions we went outside to either go to her supply shed or just to sit outside and rest and enjoy the view and fresh air and sunshine. That is how I discovered her gorgeous trumpet vine (?) - bright orange - Dale Story had the idea first and Suzanne was good enough to give us a long piece to see if we could root it. (I hope Dale is having better luck than me, even with root tone)

Meanwhile, her supply shed is a great place to pick up anything you need and I saw people with all sizes of pots and plastic baskets, fertilizers, special liquid feeds like Dyna-Grow etc., medium of different types and things I'd never considered before. One exciting find for me was colored orchid tags! She asked me what color I wanted and I hemmed and hawed and came up with ORANGE. A better question would have been 'how many of each do you want?' Well, I don't know who is like me and keeps culture records on each orchid but I got home with all my orange tags and realized I should have gotten 5 or 10 or 20 of every color because we can color code our plants that way.

Orange tags for dry out before watering like Cattleyas, Potinaras etc.

Blue tags for liking cold temps and no water like Catasetums and Den. nobiles.

Green for plants that want water daily like Ascocendas, Vandas, Angraecums and so on.

Suzanne, I just might have to come back!! It was a great visit and I think we all enjoyed the rest of the day's visits and we'll probably do a feature on one of the other nurseries another time.









As orchid hobbyists we always have all the plants we want or can take care of—Until we see one we don't have—And then nothing will stop us from adding to our inventory.

Preparing for the Orchid Auction Friday, November 20th



Orchid Auction Saturday, November 21st







Gross Orchids, LLC

4338 Glennis Drive
Lakeland, FL 33813
Phone / Fax: (863) 644-0950

3rd Annual Open House & Christmas Sale

**10% OFF ALL PLANTS AND POTTING
SUPPLIES IN STOCK**

Dates:

**Saturday, December 5th
thru**

Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

Hours:

Weekdays: (Tuesday thru Thursday) 10:00 AM to 4:00PM
(As always on weekdays, please call to confirm that we are available
before coming by)

**Extended Weekends: December 11th and 14th & December 18th
& 21st (Friday thru Monday) (We will be open our regular hours
from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM, so just come on by!)**

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Suzanne Farnsworth
Orchids & Supplies

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