The Keiki

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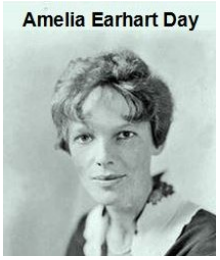

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New Years marks a new beginning. New people to meet, new adventures to enjoy and new memories to create.
New year comes to give us a fresh hope, for a better future and success.
New Year gives us dream for that we will face challenges with confidence.
On this new year may your dreams and hopes succeed with the blessings of God.

Here's wishing you the Happiest New Year ever!
From:
The Board of 'The Spring Hill Orchid Lovers Club'

Quest to Quench

by Jeff Rundell

I felt a little guilty about accepting an invitation from my brother and sister in law to share a condo on Marco Island a few weeks ago. While they planned days on the beach and afternoons sipping cocktails in some tiki bar, I was plotting a long awaited pilgrimage to the center of our Florida native orchid universe. Remember our guest speaker Prem Subramanyam and his lush photographic safari to these wild places? Remember that book, The Orchid Thief by Susan Orleans along with it's movie Adaptation? So there were forces at work within me that were beyond my control. I could only hope that they would understand.

(Continued on Page 2)

Treasure's Report
By
Helen Battistrada

Year End Balance is**: $6,242.91**
A more detailed report will be in the nest months Newsletter.

Upcoming Speaker Program
By Ed Bugbee,
Program Coordinator

January
Touch of Orchids will do a presentation and have Orchids for SALE!
February (TBA)
March
Our Festival/Show is coming up and it is not too early to be thinking about it.
(See page 3)

Membership

By Linda Meyer
Membership Coordinator
See message on page 3

Publicity & Librarian

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

(Continued from Page 1)

Marco Island was very nice if you define nice as overcrowded, expensive, overdeveloped and entirely commercialized. They've even done their best to privatize the beach. So when I suggested we might explore the hinterlands directly to the south, no one had any idea of what I had in store for them. We'll just drive down a few of these back roads and look, here's a place called Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary run by Audubon. Let's stop here. This is one of the last places on Earth where you can still find huge old growth Bald Cypress and, of course, the orchids that have accompanied them for eons. When these giant cypress fell to the axe, most of the orchids, along with the rest of the wildlife, such as many cavity nesting birds, also fell victim. The walk on the several mile long boardwalk is really a journey back in time. It's not so much the height of these ancient giants but their girth that is impressive. Audubon is truly one of the elite environmental organizations. The boardwalk contains no treated wood just sustainably-sourced South American hardwoods.

Funny thing about those native orchids though. They're not dripping from every branch, instead they're genuinely hiding in plain sight. There is one famous exception: the Super Ghost. This famous orchid (Dendrophylax lindenii) that, at times has had 20 blossoms, has its own sign pointing high into a huge cypress. Although it had no blossoms (wouldn't you know that the last one fell off just a week before) you could still see dozens of its leafless tentacle-like roots radiating wildly in every direction. This strange orchid descends from African Angraecoids and its ancestor must have drifted over here thousands of years ago to evolve into its unique form. The good news is that there are many others in Corkscrew, the bad news is that many are infected with, you guessed it - scale insects. I would have been happy just seeing the ghost but about the same time one of the uniformed volunteers happened to pass by and noticed the glazed look on my face. She recognized my problem and asked if I'd like to see more orchids. She took me back at least a half mile and made me feel less than a foot high by pointing out all the orchids I had just missed as I walked by. Hanging over one branch was a clamshell (Prosthechea cochleata) in bloom, a lovely night fragrant Epidendrum nocturnum reflected in a small pool and high above a huge Cigar or Cowhorn orchid (Cyrtopodium punctatum) crowned a Bald cypress. Epidendrum rigidum was hiding behind a few branches and not blooming but budded. (Continued on page 4)

A Reminder To All Club Members

Treasurer Helen Battistrada reminds all club members that the 2015 club dues are due in January and will be collected at the January 17th, 2015 meeting.

Dues: Single membership $17.00 Joint membership $25.00. **PLEASE — PLEASE** bring a check for the membership payment—cash has no tracking abilities. ****

Thank You! .

A Note From Jeff Rundell

Our Festival/Show is coming up and it is not too early to be thinking about it.
Set-up;
Friday, March 27th,
Festival/Show;
Saturday, March 28th & Sunday, March 29th
2015
Things to do NOW!!!???
Fertilize with half strength of recommended use, bloom booster weekly—2 x a month and standard fertilizer (10-10-10 or what you use most of the time) 2 x a month—. Also, start cleaning plants that show buds forming as potential show plants. Stake buds/spikes as they show. Now is the time to do all this with great results for that time when we need it the most. Make sure all pests are under control—Any Questions Please feel free in asking any knowledgeable Member or call Jeff Rundell or Geary Harris to determine ways to assist you.

Message from Linea Meyer—Membership Happy 2015 to all wonderful members of the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill! This year will be off and running with our Jan meeting, and that means it's time to pay annual dues. The Board has decided to keep the rate the same, so once again it is $17 for an individual membership, and $25 for a couple or family. What a bargain! Membership means that you are invited to all of our informative meetings and yummy social events (hmm, sems like our meetings have been pretty yumm too.) Club membership also means you are sent our wonderful newsletter, The Keiki, about which we have been hearing rave reviews from other clubs. So—please come to the January 17, 2015 meeting with a check made payable to : OLCOSH (Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill). Thank You for using a check for payment, it really simplifies the record keeping process!

See you all soon!

Linda Meyer - Membership Coordinator

(Continued from page 3)
As I leaned forward to take a picture I almost put my hand on a large fishing spider resting on the railing. I have a special affection for spiders and the important role they play but this guy reared up to show his fangs when I got close and returned to his wet world. The other thing that impressed me was the abundance of my other weakness, bromeliads. Most of these were members of the Tillandsia (air plant) tribe which seem to tag along with my orchid quarry. The silence and the beauty of this place is something not to be missed by anyone that lives in Florida.

There was one more destination on my quest, and this one represented a throwback to a book I adore which then became a movie I detested. Of course I'm talking about the book by Susan Orleans (The Orchid Thief), the Fakahatchee Strand state park and the Nick Cage movie (Adaptation). I was ready for the same kind of experience Audubon provided at Corkscrew but I would soon find out that was not going to happen. Fortunately there was one of my Florida State park volunteer comrades, caring for a small garden plot at the entrance. She said the road into the strand (waterway), where the orchids thrive, was "challenging". Read: understatement of the year. So off we went on the same road I assume Susan Orleans and John Laroche used in that aging pick up truck toward what she later called "a green hell". She wrote: "You would have to want something very badly to go looking for it in the Fakahatchee Strand". It's 63,000 acres 25 miles south of Naples, flat as a cracker, with wet cypress woods above 6 million year old limestone. Oh, and did I forget the nice gummy clay and grey marl?

After a few miles the road started to degenerate into a game trail so we stopped, tearfully turned around, and headed for the exit. Just one more surprise remained. A studious group of people were parked beside the road observing someone ascending a ladder leaning on a Pond Cypress. He had a large Tillandsia bromeliad in hand and proceeded to tie it to the tree. Of course this required an explanation, so I stopped and approached the fellow who seemed to be in charge. Turns out he was a scientist from Selby Gardens in Sarasota and their mission was to attach these large air plants to trees just as they were about to flower. This is an effort to get ahead of the bromeliad beetle infestation ravaging much of south Florida's prize Tillandsias. Another sad tale to unwelcome changes in our environment. I did bring back more than just the pictures you see as there were a number of bromeliads that had fallen to the ground that I had to rescue as part of display I'm working on for the Wildlife Park. I have about 100 of these fascinating Tillandisias and stopped at Tropiflora in Sarasota so that a wonderful employee named Veronica could help me with identification.

Assuming we are all plant lovers, next month, I will try to highlight a list of "plant pilgrimages" you might consider for your bucket list. I'd love some input from all of you on places you have visited so, by all means e-mail me at jrundell@tampabay.rr.com.

During our ride back to my home in Homosassa the reality made me think what was being lost every time I saw the bulldozers and the attendant brush fires clearing the way for another generic strip mall. It made me think about my next trip to penetrate even deeper into this fragment of the wilderness. Why is it that many of our special natural places were saved only because they were too inhospitable for development? (See pictures on pages 5 & 8)

Anacheilium cochleatum; aka *Prosthechea cochleata* aka *Encyclia cochleata*

Well, it's time to start another year and what a better way to begin it than to have our own speaker Donny from **'The Touch of Orchids'**.

They will have a lot of different varieties of Orchids—so, bring plenty of CASH! We have some surprises in store so, check your Keiki.

Remember—Your Dues are due at the January Meeting.

Refreshment Reminder

By

Eleanor Szarzynski,

Refreshment Coordinator

352-688-3887

January

Carolyn Monroe

Eleanor Szarzynski

Louise Kersten

Soft Drinks

Jeff Rundell

Bob East

Orchid Hybrid Trivia

From the A.O.S.

The total number of grex names in the register is currently 154,660 (as of now). This figure increases daily. Each year The International Orchid Register adds between 3000-4000 new hybrids. The most popular genera for hybrids are:

Phalaenopsis	31,382
Paphiopedilum	23,871
Cymbidium	14,688
Dendrobium	11,910

So far there are about 2349 hybrid generic names, but not all of these are in use.

There are about 5,600 species involved in hybridization.

FESTIVAL

OF

ORCHIDS

presented by The Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill

Saturday March 28, 10AM - 4PM

Sunday March 29, 10AM - 3PM

VFW Post corner of 18940 Drayton and County Line Rd. Spring Hill

ORCHID displays, vendor sales, supplies, potting booth and help

Free parking - $ 2 donation for entry

Hourly orchid raffle

Directions: County Line Rd (Pasco 578) 2.7 miles west of 589 or 6.3 miles east from US 19 (18940 Drayton St.)

Call 352-503-7858 or 727-856-0222 for information

January In Your Orchids

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

General Orchid Growing Tips

Plants will continue to manufacture food during the winter, albeit at a reduced rate. Everything will occur at a slower pace until spring arrives so the need for water and fertilizer is reduced. Indoor growers: pull you orchid away from the window if its leaves are touching the exterior glass. Outdoor growers: keep an eye on the minimum projected temperatures, such as the hourly forecasts by zip code from Wunderground.

Cattleyas

Tie up Cattleya pseudobulbs. Watch for signs of red spider mites on the undersides of leaves or scale in the sheathing on pseudobulbs. Remove the sheathing (cataphylls) carefully so as not to nick the soft tissue of the newest bulbs, which could result in rot or the introduction of disease.

Cymbidiums

Keep the humidity high around cymbidiums to prevent shriveling of the pseudobulbs and to prolong flowering. Later varieties are beginning to push up their inflorescences. Watering frequency and volume is important to support their development. Cool temperatures are beneficial.

Dendrobiums

Continue to water sparingly, or not at all, those dendrobium species that require a dormant period before flowering this spring (Den. lindleyi (syn. Den. aggregatum), Den. chrysotoxum, Den. farmeri, Den. densiflorum and Den. nobile or its hybrids). As the buds emerge, gradually increase the watering frequency and amount. Do not expose evergreen-type hybrids to temperatures below 60 F or plants in flower may drop leaves and buds.

Paphiopedilums

Do not allow the roots of paphiopedilums to dry out. On a windowsill, use a pebble tray, with water in the pebbles, to increase humidity. Keep water out of sensitive pouches. Accumulated moisture in the pouch shortens flower life. Watch for insects, particularly red spider mites, on the foliage.

Phalaenopsis

The phalaenopsis flowering cycle is about to start. Constant air circulation is essential to avoid Botrytis-spotted blooms. Water carefully to keep flowers dry and to minimize risks of soft rot in the fleshy leaves. Continue to use a dilute water soluble fertilizer. Monitor for scale and mealy bugs on the inflorescences and undersides of leaves.

Vandas

Many of the popular Thai hybrids and African angraecoids begin their winter flowering now. Watch for signs of inflorescences; help them away from the main stem of the plant to ensure proper display. Water the roots every other day and fertilize once or twice a week if light levels are sufficient.

***ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS *** It has come to our attention that Delia Dunn who has played a very large role in participating in contributions to our Keiki Newsletter. Good Old Arthur has struck again and has monopolized Delia`s fingers where as she has great difficulty in typing and can no longer do so. SOoooo—we will be looking for someone who can be willing to use a tape recorder for speakers who do presentation and fill in for Secretary when Sue Caparbi-Yalor goes North for the Summer months. ALSO—Gary Gethen, Second Vice President / Editor has taken on a new job/life in Clearwater/Spring Hill and has notified that he will after the March Edition, will not be able to full fill those duties. Anyone willing to step forward—will be greastly appreciated!

The Keiki

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