



Volume 26 Issue 2
February 2018

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THE KEIKI



Vanda Will Riley 'Bonnie Riley' FCC/AOS;
Photographer: Tom Kuligowski (From AOS Magazine)

Our next meeting is February 17th at our regular meeting place, VFW Post 8681 at 18940 Drayton Street and County Line Road. Peter T. Linn will be our speaker.



Peter T. Linn, an avid orchid hobbyist, hybridizer, and AOS judge. He resides in Southern California and grows orchids in 3 small greenhouses. Primarily he grows mini-catts, Sophronitis, Dendrobiums and miniature species.

EXECUTIVE BOARD**OFFICERS**

<u>President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President & Past President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Treasurer</u>	Helen Battistrada
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Pat Baig
<u>Recording Secretary</u> (not an elected position)	Matt Riesz

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<u>Mailing the Keiki</u>	Tim Smith
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Linda Condon & Arlene Appelbaum
<u>Programs</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Publicity</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>Refreshments</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Trips</u>	Sonia Terrelonge & Laurie Ciannamea
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
(Website set up by Ken Dunn)	



First I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who brought snacks to our January meeting. It was a chocolate feast! There was wonderful response on the sign up sheet for the next few months.

FOOD:

Andy Anderson,
Linda Drage,
Pat Baig,
Marie Tanaka
Arlene Appelbaum

BEVERAGES:

Rosemary Anderson,
Wen Ogden,
Pam Clark
Joe Parker

Thank you for all the participation. Please remember to sign up on the kitchen help sheets for our show in April. Each slot is only 2 hours long. Participation is key to the success of our show, please help out. Thank you. Mary Lou Mattana

**TREASURER'S REPORT****By****Helen Battistrada****For February Keiki**

Beginning Balance :	\$10,635.05
Total Receipts	\$ 200.00
Disbursements:	<u>\$ 718.41</u>
Ending Balance:	\$10,116.64



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

I didn't see my shadow! Yup, I crawled out of my greenhouse from a winter of temps in the 20s and a fall of hurricane Irma and lo and behold no shadow. Winter is over ..gulp..I hope. So lets go over some of what you do know and some of what you may not know. So far I have about 20 response sheets from our questionnaire . In an effort to get a more accurate idea of how the group feels about some of these important topics I'm extending the deadline for responses to the next meeting on Feb. 17. Remember you can just e-mail me your thoughts, or turn in the sheet or call me, but not in the middle of the night.

We are having a very special guest speaker at our next meeting. **Peter Lin is coming all the way from California** to speak in Tampa and at our club. Please take a look at his website **diamondorchids.com** and I think you will be impressed with his background and selection of plants. Thanks to Steve for getting us a wide variety of speakers with diverse interests.

I hope our orchid show on April 14-15 is making all of us think about how we can better get the word out. (don't forget to mark your calendars for the two days before that for bringing plants and helping to set up the show!) Give me the names of any organization you know about that might be likely to attend. That includes garden clubs, cooperative extension or master gardener people and other community organizations. Also, I want to remind everyone to sing, talk and persuade your plants to BLOOM so we can have the best display ever. Marita has lots of volunteer jobs to fill so email or call her to join in the fun. Find

some good locations for those beautiful posters in local businesses, club houses and public places. Mention us on social media, emails and offices you visit with flowers.

Other bits: If you haven't paid your dues please bring a check to the next meeting before we show up at your house in the dead of night. At our next meeting make it a point to talk to someone you haven't met before. Bring your blooming plants, even if they have only one bloom. Bring your problem plants that need help. Try to constrain the conversation during our speaker segment. Contribute an article or some pictures to the Keiki or our facebook page. Above all have a good time and enjoy the beauty and fellowship our hobby brings.

Jeff



Check out Your Library

Orchids for Home and Garden
by T.A. Fennel, Jr. #100-105

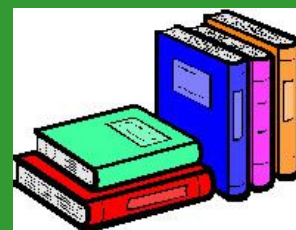
This book has full color plates, how to do it sketches and charts. The most beautiful, most spectacular of them all can be raised in living rooms all over the U.S.----from Alaska to Maine. In warm climates, orchids may be grown outdoors.

Keep your selection for a month! Click on:

www.springhillorchidclub.com

And then click on:

Alphabetical Listing Library Books





Membership Notes

By Linda Condon

The orchid year started with a bang up meeting on January 20, 2018. Fifty members signed in, along with five guests..although, honestly, the room looked and felt as if more people were in attendance! We were busy! Coincidentally, we have 50 paid memberships as of this date. I so appreciate those who paid promptly, and want to remind everyone else that our annual membership fees are due by January 31st...so, please come to the February meeting prepared with a check payable to OLCOSH (still \$17 per individual or \$25 for 2 folks at the same address.)

Just one of the benefits of membership is your entry in the Members Only Monthly Orchid Raffle when you sign in at the monthly meeting, and last month the lucky winner was someone we all



are hearing from about our upcoming annual orchid show-Marita Reitz! We expect to see that pretty little Phalaenopsis on display at that show (along with your beautiful entries.) So much work goes into this event; please do get involved.

Marita would love to hear from you, and we'll all benefit from your participation. I have found that to be the very best way to get the most joy from being a member of the Orchid Club, by working together and getting to know other people, and really feeling that it's my club.

Someone else who has enjoyed getting involved in the club is our generous Steve Mattana, who serves as Second Vice-President and Program Co-

ordinator. This month Steve has offered some fortunate Keiki reader a Phalaenopsis Specie that's just starting to spike-so after you read this, call me at 727-808-3008 and leave your name and number, and if you're the fourth caller you will be the winner! Please be sure to leave your name loud and clear-I have been deluged lately with robo calls. Aren't they maddening (especially after you've dashed from the shower?) So I often don't answer immediately. But it's a kick to win something special. Hmm, you might surprise your someone special with this for Valentine's Day. And speaking of that upcoming romantic holiday, here is a pertinent (or impertinent!) quote-'Love is an orchid which thrives principally on hot air.' Myrtle Reed. Gotcha! Poor Myrtle! Hopefully we'll all have a lovely Valentine's Day, and then we'll come buy ourselves our own perfect Valentines at the next meeting-Saturday, February 20th, 1:00 pm, at the VFW on County Line Rd. Remember, if you bring a friend, you'll get a free raffle ticket! See you there!



Now is time to pay your yearly dues.

\$17.00 for a single membership

\$25 for two members at the same address

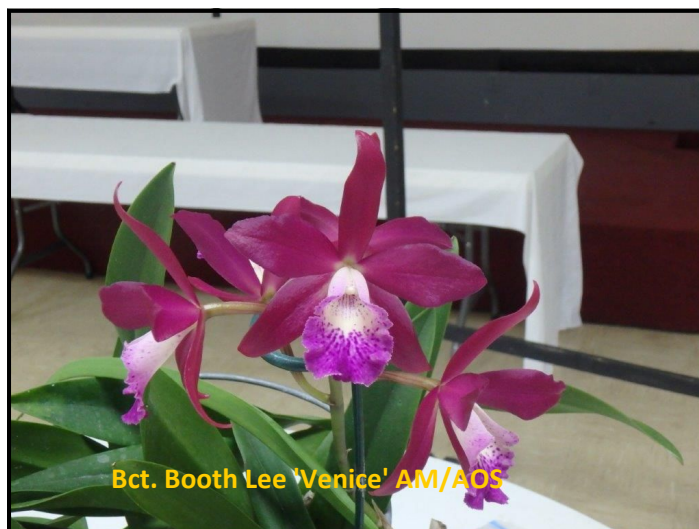
*Please bring your check, payable to OLCOSH,
to the February meeting*

Dear Members, We had very few plants this month on our SHOW TABLE.. Hopefully we will have more in February. We need not depend on just a few people to bring in their plants; we all should bring whatever blooms we might have each month. Do you think our Show Table is placed too far away from the seating area that members really can't see the plants nor hear what is spoken about them during that part of our program? Should we suggest to the Board that the table & hanging rack be placed more central to the membership so that we can appreciate the plants from our seats and also have more time right after the refreshment break to hear the educational comments from Matt Riesz? — the Show Table is meant to be a large part of our educational segment of our meetings, whether it be admiring a plant, positive help for a sad plant, what makes sit award quality, how to grow it better, questions from members about one of their plants and even letting members talk about their plants Let's make the Show Table more exciting for members!!

OLCOSH Show Table 1-20-2018

Plant Name	Grower	How long owned	Ribbon?
Rlc. Dal's Horizon	Dan Grant		Yes
Rlc. Memoria Crispin Rosales 'Lukang'	Dan Grant		
Bct. Booth Lee 'Venice' AM/AOS	Jeff Rundell		
Cymbidium hybrid - yellow	Susan Diemer	4 yrs	Yes
Ctt. Tiny Treasure 'Star Amethyst' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz	4 yrs	
Phrag. Don Wimber	Matt Riesz	8 yrs	yes
Den. Peng Seng	Matt Riesz	2 months	
Vanda Joe Bull	Matt Riesz	2 yrs	







Orchids Gone Wild At Matt's House





SPEAKER SEGMENT

By Kara Ramsey

Our speaker this month was Glenn Gross of Gross Orchids, LLC based in Polk County. He presented an educational talk on “Better Orchid Growing Through Chemicals”. Glenn stated in his talk that he is not into using natural products to treat his orchids, instead he prefers to go with what works (i.e. chemicals). Focusing on the proper application of chemicals as the key to success. For those of you who might be new to our club and unfamiliar with Glenn, he gave us a demonstration on how to mount orchids last February. The notes of which can be found in the March 2017 Keiki. Glenn takes a lot of pride in mounting his orchids and strives to achieve as natural of an appearance as possible. As if the plant had been plucked right out of nature. Today his presentation centered on the supplements he uses for his mounted and potted plants, maintenance practices, and treatment of pests.

As demonstrated last year during his mounting presentation, Glenn will sheer all the roots off his orchid (straight down to the rhizome) when he mounts his plants. He does this so that as the roots begin to regrow and attach to the mount the plant will have the most natural appearance, as if it had been growing that way all along. Because all of the roots are removed from the plants Glenn does everything he can to accelerate the re-rooting process in order for plants to begin to uptake water and nutrients. One product that Glenn uses to help his orchids establish new roots quickly is a rooting hormone with the active ingredient indolebutyric acid (IBA). Glenn prefers to use a liquid version of the IBA rooting hormone sold under the name Dip ‘N Grow. The instructions on this prod-

uct call for a 3-5 second soak of the plant cutting in the solution prior to placing it in the potting medium. However, he uses this product in an off labeled application as a spray for his plants rather than a dip. He mixes the product up as a 10 sometimes a 15:1 dilution and places the liquid into a spray bottle. The solution is then used to completely saturate the sphagnum moss that is placed directly underneath his newly mounted orchids. By placing the solution in the spray bottle he can use the same solution mix to treat multiple plants and avoid any spread of disease between plants. It is important to note that this product has a short hold time. The company recommends that you use it within 10 hours of mixing the solution. Glenn says that with using Dip ‘N Grow he has seen the emergence of new roots on his mounted plants within 7-10 days. This is increased from his previous timeframe of 2-3 weeks when using other products. Dip ‘N Grow can be purchased from Growers Supply Services in Apopka (\$30/pint bottle) along with other retailers including Amazon (\$12.70/2oz. bottle) and Wal-Mart (\$15.36/2oz. bottle).

Once his plants have become established Glenn transitions them over to his accelerated growth practices. In recent years he has transitioned from the traditional drench fertilizers over to a foliar (spray) application. KeyPlex 350, a humic amino acid foliar spray with chelated trace metals, is the primary component in his accelerated growth treatment. Chelated means that the metals are bound organically which in turn makes them more absorbable to the plant. Glenn uses the KeyPlex 350 as the base of his foliar spray, or as he affectionally refers to it has his “tea”. Over the years, he has discovered that using slightly acidic water with a pH around 5.5 leads to optimum nutrient

absorption by the plants.

There are various ways to test the pH of your water including using a standard pool kit, litmus paper, or digital pH tester. Glenn had a laboratory preform a titration test on the water he uses, and found that the addition of 8.5mL of distilled white vinegar per gallon of water will reduce the pH to the desired level. It is important to have your water tested since water originating from a particular source will have a different buffering capacity.



Buffering is the water's ability to remain stable and resists changes in pH. Meaning just because Glenn's water requires 8.5mL of vinegar to reduce the pH does not mean that your water will be the same. When getting ready to spray, Glenn will first add the amount of water he needs followed by the necessary amount of vinegar to reduce the pH to 5.5, swirl the solution, and allow it to sit for a few minutes before adding additional products. Next he will add in the KeyPlex 350, which he uses at the concentration of 2 teaspoons/gallon of water. Depending upon the time of year he might add additional products to the solution in his pump sprayer.

When it is time to fertilize his plants he uses a water soluble, urea free fertilizer (17-17-17) that he

adds to the mixture at 1 tablespoon/gallon. Once per quarter he will use SUPERthrive, a trace metal hormone supplement, for his plants. Please note that SUPERthrive is a hormone supplement and not a fertilizer, and thus should be used sparingly. Using too much SUPERthrive can lead to weird phenomena including deformation of flowers. Glenn uses SUPERthrive once per quarter on his already established plants, and 2 times per week for the first couple of weeks on his newly potted or mounted plants. During spring he will often boost the amount of nitrogen in his fertilizer thru the addition of 1 tablespoon/gallon of potassium nitrate to assist with spring time growth of the plants. Also, in the spring he might switch to a Cal-Mag fertilizer (13-2-20) to prevent new growth die back in plants due to a calcium deficiency. In the fall (usually once per month during September/October) he will add in Epsom salts to help harden up existing growth on plants and help prepare them for the cooler temperatures that will come in winter. Once all of the desired ingredients are together in his pump sprayer the final addition to his "tea" before applying is a decent squirt of Dawn dish soap. It acts as a spreading agent by breaking up the surface tension on the leaves of the plant and allows the foliar spray to be distributed as evenly as possible. The best time to apply treatments to your plants, whether it be fertilizer, fungicide, or insecticide is first thing in the morning while temperatures are still cool. Applying the foliar spray while it is still cool and the plant is bone dry will allow for the maximum absorption rate of the fertilizer or other chemicals to the plant through the leaves and the roots.

Glenn informs that one of the benefits of using KeyPlex 350 is that it helps to increase the absorption

(continued on next page)

of sprays by the plant and can decrease potential infections by certain fungi.



Of course good greenhouse practices including: being careful what time of day you water, having good air circulation throughout your growing space, and providing adequate room between plants (do not crowd) can greatly reduce fungal problems. Daily visual inspections of plants within the growing space looking for signs of anything out of the ordinary can go a long way towards preventing potential problems. It is much easier to prevent problems before they start than to treat once they have already begun. There are several products that Glenn likes to keep on hand for his orchids to prevent and/or treat for fungal problems.

A good, natural product that Glenn likes to have on hand for treating wounds (cuts) created during the repotting process is cinnamon. Applying cinnamon to a wound will help to desiccate the wound and allow it to scab over and begin healing. It can also serve as an antiseptic and may prevent some fungal infections. For plants that show obvious signs of infection such as black rot (caused by *Pythium spp.* fungi), he likes to use a powdered, contact fungicide called Captan. He mixes one tablespoon of the Captan with petroleum jelly (Vaseline) to form a paste that is ap-

plied to the affected area(s). One of his base fungal sprays is Banrot (etridiazole and thiophanate-methyl), a systemic and contact fungicide, capable of both modes of attack on potential fungi. However, since the brand name Banrot can be pricy to purchase (\$100/2lb. bag) Glenn will mix his own by using the generic ingredients. He creates Banrot by mixing T-Bird 85 WDG (thiophanate-methyl) the systemic portion along with Truban (etridiazole) the contact portion. A 5lb container of the T-Bird 85 WDG usually costs around \$70 and a quart of Truban runs \$60. He can usually make 3-5 bags worth of the brand name product by mixing the generic forms together. There are two other commercial preparations of the thiophanate-methyl available, Thiomyl by Southern Ag (\$10-12/2oz. container) and Clearys 3336. Something important to note when using products with thiophanate-methyl that you will not find on the label is that the water needs to be slightly acidic in order for the product to activate. Some other good fungicides available in smaller quantities that he also uses for treating his orchids are Daconil a broad-spectrum contact fungicide and Dithane M-45 a contact fungicide. For insect control within his greenhouses Glenn likes to use is the generic formulation of Orthene (acephate). If you cannot find Orthene the Ortho Orthene Fire Ant Killer, which is available in most garden sections, is a good substitute since it contains 50% acephate. Whether used as a spray or a drench, acephate is an effective contact insecticide with systemic properties. A good all-around insecticide that can kill various insects that he also uses is Malathion. A product called Triple Action by Southern Ag is something else that he likes to use within his greenhouses particularly for spider mites. It is a neem oil based product that is labeled as a broad-spectrum fungicide, insecticide,

and miticide. Because of the neem oil remember to apply in the morning while still cool to avoid leaf burn. Whether using fungicides, insecticides, fertilizers or supplements on your orchids, common sense should prevail to mix and apply these products correctly. Consider wearing personal protective equipment such as a small respirator, gloves, and eye protection. As stated earlier, their proper application will be the key to your success. Extreme vigilance during spring and fall when day to night time temperature fluctuations are at their greatest (warm days and cool nights) is when fungal problems can be the most prevalent. We should all strive to observe our plants daily and interpret what they are telling us so that we can be dutiful guardians for our orchids.

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*Spring Show Season*

*Goss Orchids*

**February 3—March 13th**

**“Check our Calendar of Events  
for specific locations and times”**

**[www.gossorchids.com](http://www.gossorchids.com)**

### **Things You Probably Already Know About Orchids from the AOS:::**

#### **Are orchids short-lived?**

Most are long-lived. In fact, some species are virtually immortal, given the proper attention. Divisions or propagations of orchids discovered in the 19th century are still growing and flowering today.

#### **How long do orchid blooms last?**

It depends on the type as well as on cultural treatment. Blooms of hybrids of the genus *Cattleya* may last from one to four weeks on the plant. Those of the genus *Phalaenopsis* commonly last from one to four months

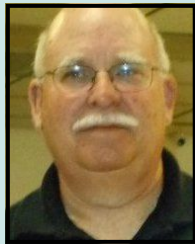
#### **How often do orchids bloom?**

Again, it depends on the plant. Some bloom once a year, others bloom several times a year and some even bloom continuously.

#### **Are orchids fragrant?**

Some are so powerfully scented as to perfume an entire greenhouse or living room. A few orchid fragrances defy description, while others mimic familiar aromas -- raspberry, coconut, lilacs and citrus. Others have no scent, but rely on shape and color to attract insects or birds for pollination, thereby continuing the life cycle of the species.





## Meeting Minutes Jan 18 2018

By Matt Reisz

President, Jeff Rundell, opened the meeting, noting that we had 24 raffle plants today, terrific odds for those who bought raffle tickets. Steve Mattana told us that 12 of those came from Everlast Orchids, in Spring Hill, who sold six to him for our usual price and then donated six more to us. Special Thanks to Everlast, who have many orchids for sale as well as all kinds of supplies for anyone who might need them. Jeff also noted that Glenn Gross, our speaker, had an amazing display of plants for sale.

It is now time for dues to be paid, so Jeff asked that once you've bought your raffle tickets and paid your dues, you visit Glenn's table for some of those special plants.

There will be no meeting in April, as our show will be the SECOND week in April.

Jeff asked that people fill out their Questionnaires (the ones sent out with the Keiki a couple of weeks earlier) and bring them to the front table.

The severe weather we've been having recently has done quite a bit of damage to landscaping and to some of our orchids. Anyone who did not move theirs inside the house during the freezes likely lost a few.

We had several guests, who introduced themselves and were welcomed heartily by the membership.

The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed, seconded and approved.

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance: | \$10,635.05 |
| Disbursements:   | \$718.41    |
| Receipts:        | \$200       |
| Closing Balance: | \$10,116.64 |

So we are in great shape as we come up to our annual show in April.

Linda gave us a membership report: As of that moment we had 40 PAID members. The rest of you (you know who you are) are encouraged to pay your membership dues promptly. Dues are \$17 for individuals and \$25 for a couple living at the same address. It seems that TWO people read the article in last month's Keiki which said "be the first one to call, and get your membership free". Maybe others read it and didn't call, but the winners were Lori and Todd Cleaver, so congratulations to them! For everyone else: READ THE KEIKI! You never know what you might find there amid the wealth of valuable orchid information.

Hats off to Ken and Delia Dunn, who assemble and publish the Keiki every month. Our newsletter is one of the best among all orchid clubs in Florida. Don't miss it. If you missed it in your email, you can find it online at the club's website at <http://www.springhillorchidclub.com/> along with an archive of all the past Keiki publications. That website, a treasure trove of easily accessible information, is mastered by member Bob East. Thanks, Bob, for a terrific job.

Jeff called our attention to a very special article in the most recent Keiki, written by **member Kara Ramsey**. Kara specializes in growing some of the plants that are unusual and often difficult for most of us, using a terrarium (or vivarium) setup. She specializes in Angraecoids (from Madagascar) and Masdevallias and researches them extensively. This fascinating article is well worth reading.

The board of directors feels that there would be many advantages to becoming a **501C-3 organization** for the tax exempt benefits that would provide. Another question on the list is a possible name change to include the words Nature Coast,

to reflect our membership demographics. An anonymous questionnaire including this issue was disseminated and we ask for you to fill it out.

Steve Mattana spoke about our future speakers, and also noted that Everlast Orchids, which supports our society, deserves a visit from our members for orchids and supplies. Today (January): Glenn Gross – “Better growing with chemicals”

**February:** Peter T. Lin – from California. Peter will be bringing some miniature Cattleyas and other mini-type orchids, and can also take pre-orders via his website if ordered before February 9<sup>th</sup>

**March:** Billy Nunez will talk about Encyclia tampense, also known as the “butterfly orchid”, which is native to our area.

**April:** No speaker, our annual show will be the SECOND weekend in April: the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

**May:** Joe DiCristofalo will talk about how to get the best photographs of your orchids. Members can bring a plant and Joe will show you how to get the best picture of it using backgrounds, etc.

Jeff talked briefly about our show, theme “Orchids Gone Wild”. We’re going to need many volunteers to help with all aspects of the show. Now is the time to work on your plants to make sure they show off their blooms to their best advantage. We will need LOTS of blooming plants. Please plan to bring your plants, even if they have only a few blooms – you never know what might win a ribbon, and everyone will enjoy seeing them! It’s also time to think about collecting natural materials for the display. We will have six vendors this year, including some new ones. We also need your help with ADVERTISING. Please do whatever you can to put up flyers, and to get them into any publication you might have if you’re a member of a HOA or

other community organization like a garden club. Our public relations chair, Julie Smolka, cannot get to those publications as they are restricted to members only. But those are a terrific way to get the word out. Jeff then introduced our show chair, Marita Riesz who gave us some details:

Marita has sent out a copy of the show flyer, which includes pictures from last year’s show, to all our members via e-mail. There are also copies of it on the front table. Help yourself and distribute widely!

Admission this year will be \$3, a \$1 increase, which we hope will improve our expense profile.

The show will be April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00AM

We’re waiting to hear from the VFW if they can do a color guard ceremony for us at the opening again this year, since it was so well received last year.

We will put displays on both stages this year, replacing the center display with another vendor area. The small stage will be reserved for miniature-type orchids, so they can be seen better, with the larger plants and flowers on the larger stage.

Marita sent signup sheets around the room, and asked that people volunteer to help out. Everyone and anyone can help out. It’s a fun and very social activity so please sign up!

On a final note, we often have members who for one reason or another need to dispose of their orchid collections. This is a great time for members to help them out and to get some beautiful, rare and/or unusual plants. Member Pat Yacco wrote Jeff recently saying they are moving back north and the plants have to go. Jeff has contact information for Pat, so if you can help her out please call Jeff and get the information from him. Sometimes these kinds of situations are fairly desperate, so time is of the essence: CALL NOW.

We broke for refreshments, and to have the show table judged. When we returned we then heard a great talk from our speaker, Glenn Gross, a professional grower from nearby. Glenn talked to us about how to get better results using chemicals, and how to mix and apply them properly.

We talked briefly about the plants on the show table – there weren't many this time, not sure why – and drew the raffle tickets and then the meeting was adjourned.

#### **A note about the Minutes**

The minutes presented have yet to be approved by the members and will become part of the permanent record of the Club. If you see the need for an addition, a deletion or a correction, please use the address below to send an e-mail to advise that a change is needed.

**THANK YOU!**

[kdunn004@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kdunn004@tampabay.rr.com)

### **Multiplying by Dividing Orchids**

Call me strange, but when I went to school, dividing and multiplying were opposites. Not so in the world of orchids. When you want to multiply your plants, you divide. As a result, you get more orchids. Dividing orchids is a common way to propagate the plants and is fairly straightforward. The process consists of the following steps:

1. Inspect the orchid. Is it ready to be divided? Is it aging? Have the new growths reached the edge of the pot? This inspection is paramount. If your orchid isn't mature, you could wind up with weak plants. If your orchid fails this inspection, wait a while longer before dividing.

2. If your orchid passes inspection, gather supplies: Clean pots, Spade, Sterilized Cutting Tool, Potting Medium, Water, Styrofoam Peanuts (you usually find these as packing material) for drain-

age of pots.

3. Remove the orchid out of the pot. If the plant is stubbornly clinging onto the pot, soak the entire pot in water for an hour before proceeding.

4. Once the orchid is out, carefully remove the potting material from the root ball as much as possible. If it's very compacted and the potting material is totally enclosed, squeeze it gently, turn it 45 degrees and squeeze again, continuing until the root ball loosens up. Then use a sterilized cutting tool to remove dead and rotten roots. (To determine if a root is dead, squeeze it. Live roots feel firm. Dead roots feel hollow.)

5. Inspect the root ball for points where the plant has grown in separate directions. These points make good places to divide the root ball. Using these natural separations, pull (or cut if necessary) the root ball into divisions, ensuring that each division has several young, healthy roots. (With orchids that form pseudobulbs, ensure each division contains at least three pseudobulbs.)

6. Put styrofoam peanuts in the bottom to help drainage and then add medium. Then, place each division in its own pot giving the roots enough room for two years of growth. Add medium until the roots are several inches below the surface and press the medium around the plant until it's steady. An orchid that wobbles does not create a strong root system and will fail.

7. Water your plants thoroughly.

Tada! You've successfully divided to multiply, and you didn't even need a calculator! Just one more step left: sit back, relax and enjoy your new orchids.

Taken from [www.everything-orchids.com](http://www.everything-orchids.com)