



Volume 26 Issue 3
March 2018

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Membership Report



Lctna. Peggy's

THE KEIKI



Our next meeting is Saturday March 17th 1:00 pm at our regular meeting place, VFW Post 8681, 18940 Drayton Street and County Line Road

Our speaker will be Billy Nunez. Below is his story:

I grew up on 1800 acres of family owned ranch land. I started working on Cattle ranches in the 70's and became familiar with Florida cypress swamps. I greatly enjoyed my adventures into these wonderful swamps. They became my refuge and I always had the sense of traveling back hundreds of years in time when I entered one of these untouched places. I was able to find many of the Florida orchid species along with native ferns and a variety of wildlife.

I began growing orchids in the late 60's after several years of tagging along with my father to visit his friend's greenhouses. Some of these growers were past FWCOS presidents.

Jack Sweet 1946-48

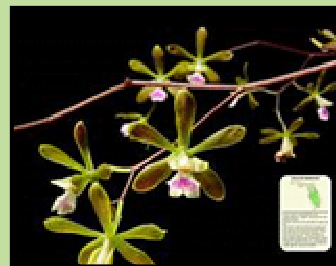
Cliff Curry 1962

John Matthews 1963

John & Gloria Naugle 1968

Gladys Whitesell 1969

Richard Bates 1978



I began to receive a few back bulbs from some of these folks and a few of them lived. I was off to the races after that. I built my first flask box when I was in high school. I have been growing orchids most of my life and I get a great pleasure now when I am making new hybrids mostly in the Cattleya alliance.

I was the president of the Florida West Coast Orchid Society for 3 terms and am currently the 1st VP. I have been fortunate enough to receive several AOS awards and register several of my hybrids. The greatest satisfaction for me is to have one of my hybrids awarded.

Now I am older than dirt and I am still fascinated with orchids.

Somewhere back in my memory I am still a young man on an afternoon adventure in pristine florida cypress head or oak hammock.

Bill Nunez 'AKA 'Rhizome Cowboy'

EXECUTIVE BOARD**OFFICERS**

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

COMMITTEES

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Ken & Delia Dunn
<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>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)	

REFRESHMENTS**FOOD:**

Lori Cleaver
Julie Smolka
Kara Ramsey
Tom Govin
Pat Baig

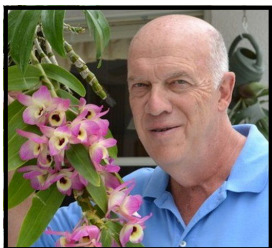
**BEVERAGES:**

Wen Ogden,
Marie Tanaka
Laurie Ciannamea

We have a need for soda, as we only have one bottle left that was not opened. If anyone would like to bring something else, gallon containers of water for the coffee machine would be great and of course more soda.

Thank you! Mary Lou

TREASURER'S REPORT**By****Helen Battistrada****For March Keiki****Beginning Balance : \$10,116.64****Total Receipts \$1,478.00****Disbursements: \$621.55****Ending Balance: \$10,973.09****February 17, 2018**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

I think each of us has a "soft spot" for a particular type of orchid. This month we hit my soft spot.....Encyclias. Our speaker Bill Nunez is going to speak about these sweet and sturdy orchids especially our native butterfly orchid *Encyclia tampensis*. I'll have a bit more to say about this in a while and also highlight one of the most colorful local characters dedicated to Encyclias.

First some news you can use: Although we don't have broken records anymore and I hate to sound like one but our Show is now only one month away. Please do anything you can to help us advertise and get people to attend. Be nice to your orchids and get them to open all their blooms for the show. Sign up to help us at the show and enjoy the experience.

I have compiled some of the results from the questionnaire and will share a couple of the main points. More to come in the future. Here are some of the results: **Question 1** about the suitability of our meeting place? 43% very suitable, 57% OK, 0% unsuitable. **Question 5** about the amount of our dues? 74% about right, 26% too low. **Question 6** about the admission price \$2 to our show? 58% too low, 40% about right, 2% too high. **Question 7** about changing our name to Nature Coast Orchid Lovers Society? 77% good idea, 9% possibly, 12% need more info, 2% no. **Question 8** about becoming a 501 c3 not for profit, 74% yes, 13% possibly, 11% need more info, 2% no. Hopefully the board will now be able to act on some of these ideas and we will move forward. Thanks to those of you who responded!

We are going to need a couple of members to help coordinate our auction and picnic, both in the fall.

These are just organizational jobs and could be done in pairs or any other way you'd feel comfortable. Write me if you have any questions. I know the nominating committee is out scouting for at least 2 positions. Don't be shy! We work as a group so you are not going to be left alone

Now back to Encyclias and why I find them fascinating. Even though my smell-o-vision is declining these orchids really sing with fragrance. Beautiful floral scents come from almost all of them. They bloom mostly in sprays of small delicate flowers at just the time of year we can all use a boost

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Check out Your Library

Orchids of Tropical Africa. #200-026

By: Joyce Stewart &
Bob Campbell

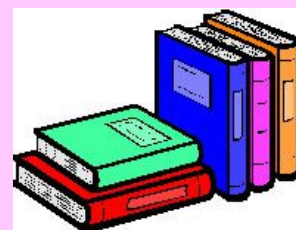
Orchids of Africa have begun to receive the attention they deserve. They are conspicuously different from those found in other parts of the world. After seven years spent traveling in different parts of East and Central Africa the author and photographer describe and show photo's of 46 (unusual) orchids.

Keep your selection for a month! Click on:

www.springhillorchidclub.com

And then click on:

**Alphabetical Listing
Library Books**



(Continued from Prior Page)



Tampensis



. Encyclia cordigera

.When I first started to grow orchids and visit my parents who retired to Largo, I came in contact with one of the most colorful, interesting characters in the Florida orchid world. His name was Bud Spence and he owned an orchid business called Florida Native Orchids in the older bayside section of St. Pete. His greenhouses were a ramshackle collection of sheds and plastic creations filled with a variety of his own primary Encyclia crosses and other oddities. He had his own little seedling lab in one corner and was a fountain of information about Encyclias. I recall visiting him and walking by his house, which was wide open, and seeing a squirrel munching on what was left of his breakfast. There was a large star fruit (carembola) tree in the middle of the yard with chairs beneath it. He frequently “held court” under

the tree and there was always a chance you’d get hit in the head from a falling over ripe star fruit. He was generous with his knowledge and plants but always gave you the impression that he had something new up his sleeve. Bud is gone along with his business but I have some of his creations I hold dear. If you see any Encyclia crosses at local growers be sure to ask if they originated from Bud. You may see a smile and hear a yarn similar to mine.

There are almost 200 species of Encyclias native to the Americas. Consider adding a few to your collection including our native tampensis. If you find any of these beauties in the wild keep it to yourself as they have a way of disappearing. After storms you can hike through wild areas and you might find some in need of rescue. Bring them back to life and remount them where they came from. Orchid clubs in Miami are engaged in a project to reintroduce this orchid by mounting it in urban trees. If I could have only one Encyclia it would probably be *E. cordigera* which has beautiful blossoms and a scent that rivals anything in the orchid world. Encyclias are not big and splashy but their scented sprays always draw me closer

Jeff

Thank you to everyone that has been bringing in all the wonderful snacks the last few months. Also, thank you to everyone with all the help cleaning up after the meeting. It is wonderful to see all that participation!

Thanks, Mary Lou

Show and Tell Table February 17 Member Meeting



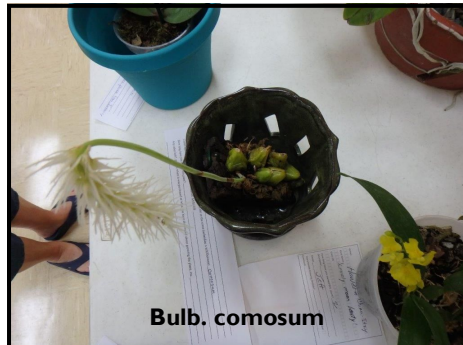
Bc. Mount Hood 'Mary' AM-AOS



Howeara Chian-Tzy Lovely 'Moon'



Pot. Shin Fong Little Love 'Little Goldfish'



Bulb. comosum



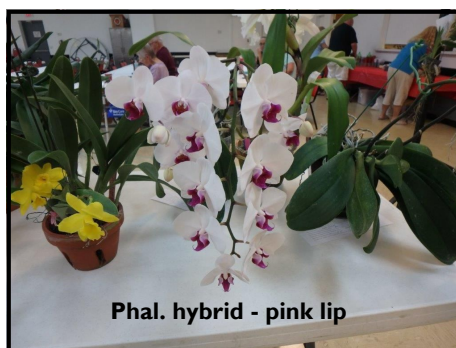
Lc. Spring Drumb 'Volcano Dream'



Rhyncolaelia Aristocrat



Bulb. comosum



Phal. hybrid - pink lip



Rhyncolaelia glauca



Cleisostoma arietinum



Phal. hybrid (mini red)



Rth. Psycho Bride 'NN'



Den. Angel Baby 'Little Darling'



Phal. Sogo Yukidan 'Odom's Snowfall'



V. Robert's Delight 'Ink Star'

Show Table February 17 Member Meeting



Vanda hybrid (red)



2018.02.17



2018.02.17

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Grower</u>	<u>How long owned</u>
Potinara Shin Fong Little Love 'Little Goldfish'	Delia Dunn	
Rhyncolaelia glauca	Jeff Rundell	7 yrs
Howeara Chian-Tzy Lovely 'Moon Beauty'	Jeff Rundell	2 yrs
Rhyncostylis gigantea (white)	Jeff Rundell	yrs
Ascocenda Weeravan (miniature vanda)	Jeff Rundell	2 yrs
Cleisostoma arietinum (micro-mini vandaceous)	Jeff Rundell	2 yrs
Cattleya hybrid	Jennifer Fletcher	2 yrs
Cattleya hybrid	Jennifer Fletcher	2 yrs
Bulbophyllum colosum	Laura Newton	
Phal. hybrid - miniature	Matt Riesz	1 month
Dendrobium Angel Baby 'Little Darling' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz	8 yrs
Rhyncolaelia Aristocrat	Matt Riesz	4 yrs
Coelogyne mossiae	Matt Riesz	10 yrs
Lc. Spring Drumb 'Volcano Dream'	Todd Cleaver	
Phal hybrid - white/pink	Todd Cleaver	3 yrs
Phal. Sogo Yukidan 'Odom's Snowfall'	Todd Cleaver	3 yrs
Bc. Mount Hood 'Mary' AM/AOS	Todd Cleaver	2 yrs
Vanda Robert's Delight 'Ink Star'	Todd Cleaver	1 1/2 yrs
Vanda hybrid (red)	Todd Cleaver	2 yrs
Rhyncattleyanthe Psycho Bride 'NN'	Wendy Paracka	4 yrs

Identifying Orchids

January 31, 2017 by Greg Griffis

Orchids are an incredibly unique and fascinating group of plants. Many people can identify a *Phalaenopsis* (moth orchid) or *Cattleya* (the old corsage orchids), but the question often is asked, “What makes an orchid an orchid?” Orchids have some morphological (physical) traits that make them stand out from other plant families. In orchids, many of their floral parts come in groups of three. There are three sepals, which are the outer petals; these are what you see when you look at an unopened bud. There are also three petals, but in orchids one of the petals has been specialized into a labellum, or lip. This is usually the bottommost petal, and it helps to attract the pollinator to the reproductive organ. In orchids the reproductive organ, known as the column, combines both the male and female parts in one structure.

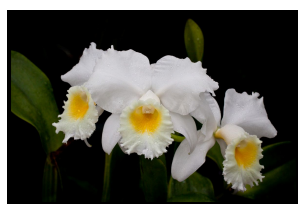
The orchid plant is also unique in its morphology (form or structure). We can begin with the leaves and work our way down to the roots. The leaves of many orchids in cultivation are unique in that they are specifically designed for water conservation (as is true for almost every orchid structure). They have a heavy waxy leaf coating and specialized stomata (openings through which the leaf “breathes”) that help to prevent water loss during transpiration (the act of the plant “breathing”). Many orchids utilize CAM photosynthesis as well, which in essence means that the plants collect materials during the day and then process them at night.

Orchid stems are also specialized into what are called pseudobulbs. These are basically expanded stems that allow the plant to store excess water and food. The roots of epiphytic (tree-dwelling) orchids have a special outer layer of dead cells called velamen. Because orchids metabolize slowly in order to not outpace their resources, the roots also absorb slowly, meaning that they need help catching water as it passes by. The velamen cells catch and fill with water as it passes by so that the true root (the core of the root structure) has ample time to access as much water as it can. Velamen is silver-white in color, but becomes transparent when wet, so that when the root is wet it turns green as you are able to see through to the inner structures of the root that contain chlorophyll.

The most common orchid genera are *Phalaenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Oncidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Vanda*, and *Cymbidium*. Although these plants are all in the orchid family, they vary greatly in their physical and floral morphology.



Phalaenopsis are the most common orchids in the marketplace and are commonly known as “moth orchids.” They usually have wide, flat, dark leaves that are arranged opposite each other. They carry long tall stems of wide flat flowers that can last up to three or more months. Their lip is smaller than the petals and held horizontally under the column.



Cattleya was once the king of the orchid world, and was known in the past for its use in corsages. *Cattleya* are generally large (up to 8 inches across), have ruffled edges, and are fragrant. They have thin pseudobulbs and hard, waxy leaves. They usually have large lips with a contrasting color in the center under the column.



Oncidium, perhaps more accurately the oncidium alliance, are a group of plants from South America that span a wide range of habitats. Inside the oncidium alliance there are a number of genera that hybridize freely to create what we call intergeneric oncidium hybrids. These can come in all sorts of shapes and sizes but are generally characterized by large quantities of small to medium flowers borne on a branched stem that generally forms a Christmas-tree shape. The most commonly identified *Oncidium* are the yellow “dancing lady” type.



Dendrobium is a massive genus containing more than (conservatively) 900 species. These range from cool-growing miniatures to huge specimen plants growing in hot conditions year round. The most commonly found types of *Dendrobium* are the phalaenopsis type (commonly known as den-phals, and named for the species most used in their breeding, which used to be known as *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*, but which is now known as *Dendrobium bigibbum*), and the nobile type (named for the species most used in their breeding, which is known as *Dendrobium nobile*).

The den-phal type are warm growing year round and do, just by happenstance, bear flowers similar in appearance to the genus *Phalaenopsis*. They can be distinguished by plant habit (most *Dendrobium* have pseudobulbs that resemble tall canes) and flower shape. Den-phals have a spur at the back of the lip; some are more pronounced, others less. They are also borne on very strong upright to barely arching stems. Interesting to note, den-phals can rebloom on old canes.



The second type, the nobile *Dendrobium*, grow warm in the summer but require a cool winter period to induce flowering. They need to experience temperatures in the 40s to low 50s (preferably) in order to flower well. They are distinguished by bearing fuzzy, flat, round, colorful flowers close to stem, which cover most of the stem on a well-flowered plant.



Vanda are a genus of hot growing orchids mainly from South-east Asia. They have strap leaves which are thick and leathery, and are generally grown in hanging baskets without any media. The flowers are large, circular, and very full in shape. They come in a variety of colors, from red to blue, and are vibrant and showy.



Cymbidium carry tall stems with many flowers that have a more typical orchid shape. They are easily identified by their grassy leaves, and they readily form large clumps. Most common are the cool-flowering types, which need to experience a cooler winter (nights in the 40s for some time in the fall) in order to initiate flowering. Once the flowers open, they can last for up to two months or more, especially in a cool environment. These are very showy and rewarding plants, and a plant in a six-inch pot can carry three stems with 15 or more flowers each, depending on the type.

The orchid family is an incredibly large and diverse plant family, with more than 25,000 different species and more than 150,000 registered hybrids. The variation within a single species can be significant, let alone across the entire family. But with a little practice, knowledge, and observation, almost anyone can identify the most common types of orchids. Identifying one orchid from the next will be helpful in understanding what conditions they prefer and how to grow and flower them well. Happy growing!

Submitted by Linda Condon

An Experience with AOS Judging

By Matt Riesz

Did you ever see, or buy, an orchid whose name ends in something like “AM/AOS”? What does that mean? How did that orchid get that designation?

Those letters after the plant name often indicate an award it has received. According to the Florida North Central Judging Center of the AOS (<https://fncjc.shutterfly.com/>), The American Orchid Society’s judging system is one of the most highly respected horticultural award systems in the world. At nationwide monthly judging and worldwide sanctioned shows, highly trained AOS judges evaluate and recognize new and superior forms of orchid species, improved forms of orchid hybrids and plants exhibiting superior culture.

Judges

American Orchid Society judges are dedicated volunteers who serve the membership and the orchid-growing public through participation in the Society's judging system. Each judge has made a sincere, long-term commitment, and gives much of their personal time and resources. AOS Judges are not compensated for their services or their travel to various judging events.

Visitors

The general public is invited to enter their orchids and observe the judging process. It is kindly requested that any comments or questions regarding the orchids under review be held until the evaluation has been completed by the center judging team.

Our Story

Early in February I found that I had an orchid, *Rhyncolaelia glauca*, that I thought seemed exceptional because of its high flower count and nice shape. I decided to look into having it judged by the AOS, and see if it might win an award. I knew from prior experience that the bar is set very high for awards. But even if a plant doesn’t merit an award the owner receives valuable information about it: what might make it exceptional; what might be done to grow or display it better, etc.

So I set out to discover where and when there might be AOS judging session in our area. After all, beautiful plants don’t last forever so I wanted to get it looked at by experts as soon as possible. I discovered that although there were no AOS-judged shows nearby the FNCJC does judging twice a month, once in Tampa toward the end of the month and once in Clermont, near Orlando, on the second Saturday which was only about a week away. I crossed my fingers and began grooming my plant. On the day of judging I decided to take another plant with me as well, *Rl. Aristocrat*, which is a cross of *Rl. glauca* and *Rl. digbyana*. As it happened mine was in full bloom with 5 flowers that I thought were beautiful and one bud yet to open so, what the heck – I cleaned it up and brought it with me.

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When Marita and I arrived at the judging center we were warmly welcomed by the staff and judges, and got some nice compliments about our plants. The judges really do love it when you bring something pretty for them to judge J. After filling out the paperwork for each plant, including its name and parentage (if applicable) and any comments, but ***NOT*** the owner's name, we took a seat around the edge of the room with other visitors who had brought plants to watch the judging process and see how our plants would fare.

The judging that day consisted of four teams of four or more judges, as there were just under thirty plants to be judged. The orchids were all beautiful. Each team worked on one plant at a time, discussing its merits and deciding whether it merited scoring for an award. Many plants were not scored, being beautiful but not exceptional when compared to prior awards. Others were found to be truly exceptional and given awards including AM, HCC and CBR. We were fortunate to be sitting near the team which judged both of our plants, so were able to hear the judges' comments and evaluations during their deliberations. It was an eye opener for sure: The original plant turned out to be very beautiful, but the flowers were quite a bit smaller than other awarded plants in the past and the flower count was much less than prior culture awards. The judges decided not to try scoring it because it was felt not to be potentially awardable. The second plant, however, fared better. The flowers had a pleasing shape and color. They were slightly smaller than previous awards, but that is not necessarily a disqualifier. The judges elected to score it, so they went through further deliberations and filled out detailed scoring sheets. After averaging the judges' individual scores and discussing each judge's reason for his or her score it scored a 74, which was just barely too low to qualify for an award (75 points is the cutoff). Nonetheless, it was a beautiful plant and we received a lot of compliments about it during and after the judging session. Imagine if we had not decided to bring it at the last minute – you just never know...

The session wrapped up by discussing all of the awarded plants and describing the qualities that made them exceptional. They were even kind enough to discuss both of our plants although they did not win any awards. What a great learning experience!

Marita and I would like to thank the judges and staff of the Florida North Central Judging Center of the AOS for their warm and cordial treatment of us and our plants; for their deep expertise in evaluating them; and for all the terrific advice they gave us to make them exceptional in the future. I highly recommend that folks who have a plant they think is especially beautiful and well-shaped to bring it to the judging center for possible awards and for the great learning experience. We'll be back!

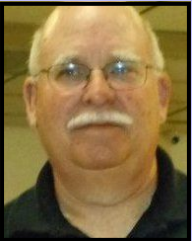
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**OLCOSH Meeting Minutes 2/17/2018**

Jeff Rundell called the meeting to order, and welcomed our speaker for the day, Peter T. Lin from California. We are sharing Peter's costs with Tampa Bay Orchid Society, which helps make it cost-effective for us to have such a great speaker.

Several visitors and guests were welcomed by the membership. Linda Meyer, our membership chair, said we also had two new members who just signed up: Francis and Danielle Dames, and David Bernans. Welcome to the club!



Helen Battistrada gave us a Treasurer's Report:

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Opening Balance:</b> | <b>\$10,116.64</b>      |
| <b>Receipts:</b>        | <b>\$ 1,478.00</b>      |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>    | <b>\$ <u>621.55</u></b> |
| <b>Closing Balance:</b> | <b>\$10,973.09</b>      |

So we're in pretty good shape, with our 2018 show coming up in April.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Jeff announced that it is the time of year when new officers need to be elected, and new helpers brought onto the board of directors. The Nominating Committee has been formed, and includes Our displays are planned, and there will be two of them: one on each of the two stages at the front of the room. The remainder of the room will hold our six vendors. Delia Dunn, Wendy Paracka and Bobbie LeMay. They will be meeting and calling people, and will come up with a slate of officers, which they hope to be able to present at our next meeting in March. Delia asked that if anyone is interested in serving on the board, please contact her, or Wendy, or Bobbie. Jeff's term is coming to

an end, as are those of our vice presidents and some committee chairs, and we will need club members to step up and take those positions.

Jeff reminded us of the questionnaires handed out at the last meeting. We have 25 responses so far and would like at least 30 more. There was a stack of questionnaires at the head table for anyone wishing to add their voice. There are several important decisions to be made and we really do need your opinions! Please fill one out, hand it to Jeff, or mail it to him.

Our annual show is coming up on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The venue will be the VFW, and we have six vendors this year, all of whom are paid up in advance. We need your blooming plants! Do whatever you must to encourage them to bloom – talk to them, play music, threaten them, etc., but please do bring them to us on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> when we will be setting up the show. We also need to improve attendance at our show.

Jeff passed around a sheet, looking for help in advertising. Looking for social media sites, community resource like Nextdoor ([www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)), garden clubs, cooperative extensions, etc. Marita brought several flyers and brochures to be handed out. Please take a few and disseminate them widely! Marita passed around some signup sheets, with information on the type of help we need at the show. Nothing you can do is too small, and there's something that everyone can do. Please sign up!

Marita also asked people to go to their local florists with some of the small flyers, and see if they would include one in every plant delivery they make.

Jeff reminded us of the wonderful job that Delia and Ken Dunn have done once again on our club

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newsletter, The Keiki. It has terrific articles and pictures, and important or interesting information for members. This month, there was an item in Linda's membership report, which awarded a very special plant donated by Steve Mattana (thanks, Steve!) to the fourth person who called Linda after the Keiki was distributed. The Keiki sent via email, is available online at our website, and can be sent via regular postal mail if you do not have access to the internet. The lucky winner this month was Marita Riesz, who got a lovely little Phal. lowii! So there are sometimes goodies to be had, and we encourage you all to read the Keiki closely.

Jeff pointed out that our Display Table is having some changes made. This month we did not award ribbons, but instead chose to talk about the wonderful plants brought in by members. Jeff and Matt will talk about them after our speaker segment and just before the raffle. The table location was also moved to a more central site where we hope people can see it better. It can be a great learning experience. We encourage members to bring their blooming plants, as well as any problem plants, as we have plenty of expertise to help you grow them better Remember: if YOU like the flowers, or YOU have a problem with a plant, it is highly likely that others will as well!

Steve Mattana told us that our speaker next month will be Billy Nunez who will talk about his specialty, Encyclias, especially Encyclia tampense which is native to our area.

We had a very nice raffle table, including some plants from Pat Yaco's collection, as she is moving out of the area. We also had a member raffle, which is chosen from among the members who sign in at each meeting.

Jeff called our attention to our club library, including two terrific new books which he is donating. If you are interested in any of our library books, please see or contact Celeste, who will bring them in for you.

We broke for refreshments, then reconvened for a great talk on mini-Cattleya breeding by Peter Lin. Matt, Jeff and Peter then talked about the plants on the display table, followed by our raffle.

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)



## Speaker Segment

By Kara Ramsey

First of all I would just like to say thank you to Steve Mattana for his recruiting efforts to bring new and unique guest speakers to present to our club. We are extremely honored to have for our guest speaker this month all the way from Southern California **Peter T. Lin of Diamond Orchids**.

He became interested in and started growing orchids at just 17 years of age. By the time he was 19 years old he was involved with the AOS judging program. However, due to his studies at college and starting a career he stopped growing orchids for nearly 25 years. He was "bitten" by the orchid bug again about 13-14 years ago while at an orchid show, and he is now heavily involved in the orchid world again. Peter enjoys growing and hybridizing orchids in his greenhouses in California. He specializes in growing mini Cattleyas (mini-catts) and Sophronitis. He gave a discussion today on mini-catts including: why he grows his

orchids, the species, primary hybrids, early hybrids, current hybrids, their culture, and repotting.

There are plenty of reasons why to grow mini-catts. They are small, compact and do not take up much space. For a lot of

us, orchids are an addiction and we are going to keep buying plants whether we truly have the room to accommodate them or not. If your growing space is small selecting plants that are miniature in size will allow you to grow a larger collection of plants in a limited amount of space. Peter mentions that he can accommodate three mini-catts in the same space that one standard size Cattleya would occupy. The mini-catts will flower more often, as frequent as 2-3 blooming periods per year. They are available in most of the colors found in traditional standard Cattleyas, except greens and whites. They are not as well represented within the mini-catts. They grow and bloom faster from seed; taking roughly 3-4 years to complete the process. Whereas a standard Cattleya will take 5-7 years, which is an important difference if you are a hybridizer or a commercial grower. The mini-catt hybrids are very temperature tolerant and often accepting of temperatures as low as 40-50F. For those of us who have growing space outdoors that means the plants can stay outside for longer periods of time during the winter months.

There are several species of miniature Cattleyas that are found in nature. *Cattleya luteola* is a very pretty, dwarf species from Brazil with light yellow colored flowers that are 2" across. A single spike for this miniature species may carry as many as 6-8 flowers. Another species from Brazil, *C. walkeriana*, grows 6-8" in height and has flowers of varying colors (pinks, blues, albas, and semi-albas) that are 4-5" across and highly fragrant. This species when utilized in hybridization will frequently pass along its fragrance to the offspring. Another little gem from the high elevations within the tropical mountain rainforest of





*Soph. coccinea* plants will reach heights of 4" and display 3" wide brilliantly colored red or orange flowers that can last up to 6-8 weeks. A sister species to *Soph. coccinea* is *Soph. wittigiana*, which has similar flowers that are bright pink in coloration. *Sophrontis cernua* is a warm growing species that is native the lowland dry interior of Brazil. Tolerant of tropical conditions, this species would be suitable to culture here in Florida. This minute species reaches heights of only 1-2" tall. Flower color ranges from oranges, to reds, and even yellows, and plants can display up to 9 small flowers per spike. Due to this species diminutive size, Peter uses *Soph. cernua* in his hybridizing program to create micro mini-catt hybrids. Another native to Brazil, *Laelia pumila*, is a species with large, showy flowers that are 3-5" across on a small, compact plant. *Laelia alaorii* is a relatively new species also native to Brazil that grows 3" in height. As each new growth matures on the plant a single bud will form a display a flower that is barely 2" in width. This species is used to help create hybrids that will bloom more than once a year, as *L. alaorii* may bloom as many as 3-4 times per year. *Laelia briegei* is a rupicolous (rock dwelling) species from Brazil that has pseudobulbs that are 5" in height, and when in bloom forms a 12" tall spike that displays 4-6 vibrant yellow colored flowers. *Broughtonia sanguinea* is a warm growing, miniature species from Jamaica that reaches a height of 3-4" tall. This species blooms with a cluster of flowers in a wide range of colors atop a 12" tall spike. This species can be in bloom continuously for a period of up to 3 months. Our final species from Brazil is *Cattleya aclandiae*, which has olive colored flowers with heavy burgundy spotting. The flowers are highly fragrant and the dwarf plant can bloom 2-3 times per year. This species is used in hybridizing to give us spotted mini-catts.



*Laelia pumila*

The first mini-catt hybrids were created by crossing two species orchids with one another to form primary hybrids. One very famous primary hybrid known as *Sc. Beaufort* was created by cross-

ing *Soph. coccinea* with *C. luteola*. The flowers formed from this cross are an intense, jewel toned, yellow with some red markings on the inside of the lip. This hybrid has had a significant impact on the world of mini-catts since it has been used to sire several hundred other hybrid orchids. The hybrid *Sl. Orpetti* was created during the early 1900's using *Soph. coccinea* and *L. pumila*. Flowers on this compact plant are rather large and available in variety of colors, including some deep purples. Although *Sophrontis* is in the background of this primary hybrid the plants are considerably more warmth tolerant. A very pretty primary hybrid with large, highly fragrant blue flowers on a compact plant is *Lc. Mini Purple*, formed from *L. pumila* crossed with *C. walkeriana*. A final primary hybrid that was discussed is *Lc. Jungle Elf* (*C. aclandiae* x *L. esalqueana*), which is often used in breeding in order to pass along yellow flower color

and spotted petals to its offspring.

We discussed some of the early mini-catt hybrids that were bred. Two early hybrids *Sl. Minipet* (*Sl. Orpetti* x *Soph. coc-*



*cinea*) and *Slc. Seagulls Apricot* (*Slc. California Apricot* x *Soph. coccinea*) yield offspring with intense red colored flowers

Living in Florida, plants of Slc. Seagulls Apricot would not be easy to grow with so much Sophronitis in the background. Another early hybrid, C. Little Dipper (C. Angelwalker x C. Batalinii) is responsible for producing several mini-catts with splash petals. A hybrid cross between a splash petal orchid and *Broughtonia sanguinea*, known as Letna. Peggy San, is used in breeding to generate offspring with splash colorations on the petals and flower petals that mimic the appearance and coloration of the lip. As the orchid world has changed in recent years so has the number of individuals that are currently breeding miniature Cattleyas. The most notable individuals that are still breeding mini-catts and producing current hybrids are Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, Alan Koch of Gold County Orchids, and Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries. Of course Peter dabbles himself at creating some current hybrids. Probably the most prolific hybridizer of mini-catts has been Fred Clarke; he is responsible for creating over 100 hybrids. Just some of the hybrids he has created include: Slc. Mini Beau (Sc. Beaufort x Sl. Minipet) with 2" orange to red flowers, Slc. Mini Apricot (Sl. Minipet x Slc. Seagulls Apricot) with all red flowers, and Beau's Apricot Gem (Slc. Seagulls Apricot x Sc. Beaufort). Some noteworthy hybrids from Alan



**2" pot BS**  
An easy to grow Sophronitis species. Best grown mounted. Flowers in the winter.

Koch are Slc. Sierra Doll (Slc. Pink Doll x C. walkeriana) and Slc. Fuchsia Doll (Slc. Sierra Doll x L. sincorana), both of which yield large 4" flowers on a plant that will only reach 7" in height. One of the current hybrids that Peter made is Slc. Star of Life (Slc. Pole Star x Slc. Circle of

Life). Flowers of Slc. Star of Life are shades of yellows or oranges with a red lip and some red flaring on the petals.

Peter has found in traveling the country doing these presentations that splash petal hybrids are not for everyone, folks either seem to love them or hate them. The foundation of splash petal hybrids originated from *Cattleya intermedia* v. *aquinii*. Upon looking at a photo of this species it is easy to see why, as the petals of this variety clearly mimic the coloring of the lip. Slc. Angels Fantasy is a beautiful hybrid made by Roy Tokunaga using Slc. Fire Fantasy with Slc. Bright Angel, which produces splash petal flowers in a host of colors including some whites. Fred Clarke has started to label some of splash petal hybrids like Slc. Memoria Trudy Marsh (Slc. Tangerine Mini Jewel x Slc. Cosmic Delite) as candy stripes due to the stripped markings on the flower petals. One cross made by Alan Koch that seems to have superior flowers is Letna. Sacramento Splash (Letna. Peggy San x C. Little Dipper). Peter mentioned that several years ago he purchased a total of 12 seedlings of this cross from Alan. So far he has had earned awards from the AOS for 7 out of the 12 plants.

Several hybrids have also been made that feature spotting on the flower petals. One of the more prominent spotted hybrids is Lc. Jungle Eyes (Lc. Jungle Elf x C. aclandiae), which results in strengthened (concentrated) spots on the petals and sepals. A hybrid that is often used as the parent plant to create additional spotted orchids is Slc. Jungle Gem (Lc. Jungle Elf x Slc. Precious Stones).

The flowers of Slc. Jungle Gem vary and are a wide range of yellows and oranges suffused with burgundy spotting.

A rather unique spotted hybrid is Slc. What'll It Be (Slc. Jungle Gem x C. Penny Kuroda), which has spotting on all of the sepals and flares on the petals.

Hybridizing has been used to achieve even smaller miniature Cattleyas referred to as micro minis.

These plants will only be 5" or less in height. Fred Clarke has come up with some rather cute names for some of his micro mini hybrids, names like Sl. Tinsy Winsy (Sl. Minipet x L. alaorii) and Slc. Itsy Bitsy (Sc. Beaufort x L. alaorii). Plants of Slc. Itsy Bitsy will grow to be around 4" tall with nice 2" across yellow flowers. Peter has created some micro mini crosses of his own; one of the first micro mini crosses that he tried his hand at was Sl. Pink Opal (Sl. Minipet x Soph. wittigiana). Offspring from this cross have large flowers that are varying shades of hot pink...

In terms of culture, mini-catts can be grown under a variety of conditions: by the windowsill, in the greenhouse, under lights, and outdoors in temperate climates. At maturity a mini-catt will occupy a 3-4" size pot. That makes them perfect for windowsills or those that have limited bench space for additional plants. They do require bright light (2,500-3,000 foot candles) in order to grow well. If you are growing indoors near a windowsill Peter recommends an east, west, or southern window exposure. Most of the mini-catts will tolerate a wide temperature range between 50F and 95F. However, a lot of the red colored flowers will require some cooling due to Sophronitis in the parentage. Due to the smaller sized pots these plants may need to be watered more often. In his greenhouses in Southern California he typically waters his plants once a week. During the heat of the summer plants are watered twice a week, and during the winter watering is reduced to about every 10 days. Peter likes to

fertilize his plants with a weak solution with every watering while the plants are experiencing periods of active growth. Potting media is a matter of personal preference, growing environment, and watering habits. Mini-catts can be grown in a variety of different media including bark, gravel, lava rock, and even sphagnum moss. When the time comes to repot make sure that there are signs of active root growth (i.e. new roots or branching of older roots) and take care not to over pot the plant. Over potting can lead to the potting medium staying too wet, especially in the center of the pot, and can lead to the decline of the plant. Immediately after repotting Peter will water plants right away if it is warm, however, during spring time or on cool/cloudy days he will wait to water. Generally he will place newly repotted plants in a shadier location within the greenhouse for 1-2 weeks in order to help them reestablish. Miniature Cattleyas are not difficult orchids to care for. These plants will provide the grower with years of enjoyment of excep-



tionally large, vividly colored flowers on plants with a compact growth habit.

**Peter T. Lin, [DiamondOrchids.com](http://DiamondOrchids.com)**





## Membership Notes

By **Linda Condon**

Membership Notes  
February 2018

The February meeting of the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill was a flurry of activity-51 members signed in, along with 8 guests. We saw some friends who hadn't been here for a while, including our own learned orchid judge, Laura Newton, who arrived on crutches! That's the spirit! And we were happy to greet three new members who had never been to our meeting before-

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Francis and Daniele Dames Francis says he's grown orchids for 50 years

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Especially gorgeous orchids were abundant as more members brought theirs in for the members display table in February. Our dynamic speaker, Peter Linn from California, treated us to a visually rich program which included exquisite pictures of his specialty Mini Catts. Also mini was the baby Phal about to produce its very first bloom that Steve Mattana had grown and generously presented to Marita Riesz, who was the fifth caller to me in our "Have you read your Keiki?" contest last month. This month to encourage your readership, I will give three free raffle tickets to the 4<sup>th</sup> caller to 727-808-3008 after March 4<sup>th</sup> (but not before, since I'll be away on a cruise!) Wow, there were lots of terrific orchids to choose from on the raffle table in February! More good luck came to Regina Epple, whose sign in number was drawn by our guest speaker for our Members Only Raffle, so she went home with her new lovely Phal.

The March meeting should be just as great because of all your co-operation (did you notice how much easier it was to enjoy the program since we were all quieter and less chatty during the meeting?) and participation (good questions, suggestions) and contribution (lovely plants and fabulous goodies on the snack table!) This is such a cool club to belong to! Please consider how you'd like to become more active-the Nominating Committee would love to hear from you, and there are plenty of opportunities to help with the upcoming Orchids Gone Wild show. Yikes, April is fast approaching, so let Marita Riesz know she can count on your help with that. Also-please bring a check for your club dues, if you haven't already paid (\$17 per individual or \$25 for two people at same address.) You will be dropped from membership if not paid by end of March-please don't make me call you and nag!

Let's see this all come together at the next meeting, Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the VFW on County Line Rd. Remember to bring a friend and receive free raffle tickets, and sign in at the Membership table to have a chance in the Members Only Raffle. Until then, enjoy what seems to be Spring...and call me!

Linda Condon

Membership Committee



The Give-A-Way Orchid