



THE KEIKI



Coming in June

Volume 29

Issue 6

June 2021

Our June 19, 2021 meeting

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President's Message

From Steve Mattana



Good day everyone

Sorry I missed you all last month. I'm pretty sure Jeff Rundell took care of everything just right. I really don't have much to say because I wasn't there. However, we will be installing new board officers this month. If you're interested in any of the positions please contact myself or Jeff Rundell at the meeting on Saturday.

I have enjoyed being the President of our society for the past few years. I've been on the board for five years. It's a very interesting experience. I recommend being on the board is a great way to learn more about our fantastic hobby

Stay tuned to Corbin's corner in this issue about our guest speaker. I'm looking forward to hearing this topic that we have never heard before. And some plants that we probably never seen. Looking forward to seeing everybody.

Have a great day and happy growing
Steve

Gary Gethen



Recently one of our long time members unexpectedly passed away. For those of you that did not know Gary Gethen, you missed something. Although he originally came from Wisconsin he came to us from Key West when he needed to care for his parents. He was among the kindest most gentle men I have ever known and he was a tremendous asset to our club. He lived on what I can only call a “plant paradise” in Spring Hill. His knowledge of orchids and so many other plants was jaw dropping. There were things he’d planted all around his house that made me shake my head and say “that shouldn’t be growing here”. When you pointed that out to him you were sure to go home with a cutting or root. His greenhouse was so full of plants you could barely

see more than a yard. He was small enough to disappear in his green labyrinth while describing things you would see nowhere else. There were not just orchids but a collection of aroids including rare anthuriums, ferns other tropicals. When I asked him what his secret was he just shrugged and smiled. One secret I found by accident came when I tested his water hardness and found his well had about half the mineral content most of us have. He had some amazing plants. Once he brought an Oncidium to our show that filled the back of his pickup truck.

Gary was also a master gardener who assisted many others with their back yard problems. He surpassed the idea of a green thumb having what I can only describe as a green brain. I never heard him demean anyone and he was always there to help the club. We will certainly miss him.

Many of you are aware that volunteers from our club have taken on the mission of moving his orchids and other plants to the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens just off Spring Hill drive. We are currently preparing them for sale and some of them will also become permanent residents in the garden. They will provide a living legacy and we will be announcing a sale date. Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted in transporting and grooming his plants. Today, I saw a young couple leaving the gardens with a big smile after purchasing one of his large anthuriums with beautiful shiny dimpled foliage. I’m sure Gary is smiling too.

Jeff Rundell

EXECUTIVE BOARD**OFFICERS**

<u>President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Past President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Corbin Beller
<u>Treasurer</u>	Yvette Lewis
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Linda Moore
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Kara Ramsey

COMMITTEES

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Librarian</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Membership</u>	Arlene and Arty Appelbaum
<u>Publicity</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Kara Ramsey
<u>Trips</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
(Website set up by Ken Dunn)	
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

**Corbin's Corner**

Last meeting we were able to see a very detailed presentation on how to divide a monstrous cattleya in need of dividing presented by Matt Riez. He showed us in detail where to make a cut on the part of a sympodial orchid called a rhizome. This is like a large artery transporting nutrients and water from the roots and into the pseudo-bulbs. Sympodial orchids have evolved to have a pseudobulb used to store water in times of drought and harsh weather. Jeff Rundell showed us some examples of his mounted orchids and types of mounts that work great.

Next meeting June 19, we will be hosting Ecuagenera. They are an orchid nursery located in Ecuador with many locations around the world. They specialize in orchids native to Ecuador and surrounding locations. The amazing orchids you can find growing at their Apopka location, located at 3600 Plymouth Sorrento Rd, Apopka, FL 32712. You can find amazing fragrant Cattleyas, encyclias, dendrobiums, oncidiums and even members of the stanhopea family. They will be primarily bringing in fragrant warm growing orchids that will grow great in our florida climate. They also have a very wide variety of aroids and other plants at very reasonable prices! We hope to see you at this months meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Yvette Lewis

Current Report as of 5/31/2021:

Prior balance as of 3/31/2021:	\$10,123.32
Total receipts (raffle, etc.)	\$448.15
Total disbursements	<u>\$(270.83)</u>
Bank balance as of 4/30/2021	\$10,300.64
Outstanding Checks	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
Cash On Hand 4/30/2021	<u>\$10,300.64</u>



NCOS Show Table May, 2021

Plant Name	Grower
<i>V. denisoniana</i>	Corbin Beller
<i>Coel. Burfordiense</i>	Corbin Beller
<i>Cym. Golden Elf 'Sundust'</i>	Matt Riesz
<i>Encyclia cordigera</i> var. <i>roseum</i>	Ken Mort
<i>Brassia Sunrise Glow 'Phelps Farm' AM/AOS</i>	Ro Wenz
<i>Blc. Mount Hood</i> x <i>Lc. Fire of Spring</i>	Sue Caparbi-Taylor
<i>Epicyclia Serena</i> O'Neill	Ken Mort
<i>Phal. Sogo Metal</i> x <i>Phal. Greenfield</i>	Ken Mort
<i>Arpophyllum spictatum</i>	Matt Riesz
<i>Encyclia</i> hybrid	Jeff Rundell
<i>Cattleya</i> hybrid	Jeff Rundell





MEMBERSHIP NOTES

FOR JUNE.

OUR MAY MEMBERS' MEETING WAS WELL ATTENDED BY OVER 45 PEOPLE. EIGHT NEW MEMBERS HAVE JOINED OUR SOCIETY, BRINGING OUR TOTAL ROSTER TO 124 PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDES 118 PAID MEMBERS, 5 LIFE MEMBERS, AND 1 HONORARY MEMBER.

AS I MENTIONED AT THE MEETING, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND A NEW VENDOR TO MAKE NAME BADGES FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE ONE. THE OLD COST WAS \$13.50; THE NEW PRICE IS \$7.50! WEARING A BADGE MAKES IT DEFINITELY EASIER TO CHAT WITH FOLKS AT OUR MEETINGS WITHOUT THE AWKWARD "HELLO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?" ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL WEATHER AND PRAY FOR RAIN.

ARLENE

MEMBERS:

Arlene has graciously taken over sending get-well cards and sympathy cards to members. If you know of any members who are ill or grieving, please send her an email to let her know at fluffy2cats@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



NCOS ORCHID QUIZ

How to Kill your Phal

Answers on page

1. **You purchase a phalaenopsis, the worst thing to do is?**
 - A. Place under a shady tree
 - B. Place in full sun
 - C. Put in indirect light on widow sill
 - D. Put in greenhouse
2. **How not to pot**
 - A. A plastic pot
 - B. Mount
 - C. In a pot with no drainage
 - D. An orchid pot with holes
3. **How not to water your Phal**
 - A. Ice
 - B. In the crown
 - C. Keep very wet at all times
 - D. All of the above
4. **How not to stop the bugs**
 - A. Neem oil in the hot sun
 - B. Place near other infested plants
 - C. Follow directions on insecticide label
 - D. A and B
5. **The media you should not use for your orchid is**
 - A. Bark
 - B. Garden soil
 - C. Sphagnum
 - D. Lava rock

The Orchid and the Tree.

An orchid seed was flying through the air when it landed on a tree. The Orchid seed said to the Tree "Is it ok for me to live here?" The Tree asked the Orchid "are you going to feed on me" ? The Orchid said "No, I landed on the rock first, he never said anything, and it was not safe for me, then the wind took me to you. So here I am. I just need to live with someone." The Orchid said "besides, I would like to live with you. I really like to hear your whispers, in the breeze."

SM

Reigning Trowel in a Kingdom of Orchids
Author unknown



Robert Fuchs is orchid royalty, perhaps king of orchids, as Susan Orlean suggested in her 1998 book, “The Orchid Thief.”

The Orchid King

“Anybody can have goldfish,” Robert Fuchs said, showing off the 12-foot-deep fishpond in his orchid-draped walled garden near the Everglades. In the pool, a glittering mass of Brazilian red-tail catfish churned the waters at feeding time and, on a ledge just above, a four-foot alligator named Wally waited for Mr. Fuchs to whistle, signaling that it was time for chicken thighs.

The fishpond began as a solution hole, a natural depression in the underlying coral reef, where Mr. Fuchs’s grandfather burned trash in the dry season. Mr. Fuchs deepened it, adding lush landscaping, a nearly 10-foot-high waterfall and a huge wooden observation deck, as well as an outdoor living area around his house, a few steps away. The result is a sub-tropical paradise where you might expect to see Dorothy Lamour lounging in a sarong, a velvety white cattleya orchid behind her ear.

Or more likely, an exotic fuchsia vanda orchid, if Mr. Fuchs has any say. The president of R. F. Orchids, a nursery here, Mr. Fuchs does everything theatrically. “I like the wild factor, for people to go in and say, ‘Wow!’ ” he said, adding that he specializes in the vanda because “it is probably the most flamboyant of all orchids.”

Mr. Fuchs, whose father and grandfather grew orchids in the farmlands near Homestead, was a junior high school art teacher in 1984 when he burst on the international orchid scene at the 11th World Orchid Conference in Miami. After his juicy red hybrid vanda won the grand champion title at that event, widely considered the orchid Olympics, he quit his day job.

Today, he is orchid royalty, perhaps the king of the orchids, as Susan Orlean suggested in her 1998 book, “The Orchid Thief.” His Homestead nursery has annual revenues of \$1.5 million, and has won more than 800 awards — a record — from the American Orchid Society. Last month he presided over the 19th World Orchid Conference, again in Miami, and walked away with a slew of prizes, including the grand champion display exhibit award he had long coveted.

He lives an orchid lover’s fantasy on a 10-acre plot where his grandfather, Fred Fuchs Sr., had a concrete-block cabin, and where he himself has created a kind of private grand champion display exhibit. He and Michael Coronado, his life and business partner, share a 3,800-square-foot, Mediterranean-style house with marble floors and cathedral ceilings that Mr. Fuchs built in 1987. (His grandfather’s cabin survives as a guest house, attached to the new structure by a two-car garage.) But the couple spend most of their time outdoors in their private, open-air garden and in three acres of orchid greenhouses, a dizzying kaleidoscope of colors.

"Mornings, I go out in the garden with my cup of coffee," Mr. Fuchs said. "In the evening, I close the gate to the nursery and come back."

"It's magical, enchanting, peaceful, relaxing," said Mr. Fuchs, who is known not for relaxation but for extreme focus and compulsive attention to detail — attributes that have won him both admirers and enemies in the orchid world.

"His gift is that he can see how things will finish," said his mother, Barbara Fuchs, by way of explaining his intense demeanor. Mrs. Fuchs now lives in Tennessee but often visits, particularly when there's an orchid exhibit to stage. She and her late husband used to lead Latin American orchid tours; today, at 82, she accompanies her son, the second eldest of four boys and a girl, on his tours of places like Tibet and Cambodia.

In Mr. Fuchs's garden, stone paths meander through a jungle of gingers, heliconia, exotic palms and several thousand orchids. He designed the garden to give the eye somewhere to rest at every point along the path — on the cage of a brilliantly colored macaw, a giant bronze turtle, the lagoon-shaped pool where a blue-black bottom sets off a showy vanda mosaic. Maintenance is low, as he lets the plants grow naturally.

Some of the orchids are more than 60 years old, collected or grown by his grandfather. The elder Fuchs introduced his grandson, now 61, to orchid hunting in the swamps when he was barely in grade school. To make sure he didn't disappear into an alligator hole, his grandfather tied a rope around his waist, yanking when the rope stretched taut. By 19, Mr. Fuchs had discovered his first natural hybrid, in Nicaragua, which is still in his collection.

"Orchids live forever as long as you take care of them," he said. "You have to have light and air movement. My main advice is don't over-water. More people kill orchids through over-watering than anything else." (Even an urban apartment dweller can have long-term success, he added. "Have a little fan going, grow the orchids in a tray with pebbles, keep a little moisture in, put a grow light over it and you'll be rewarded.")

Orchids are everywhere inside Mr. Fuchs's home, but not all of them are alive. Mr. Fuchs collects orchid memorabilia, and his display cases overflow with crystal orchid prizes and antiques like a 500-year-old Chinese teapot with an orchid traced in red; a gold-and-ruby Fabergé egg with a jeweled orchid at its center; and a 150-piece set of antique porcelain with a hand-painted orchid design. Even the ultramodern den is decorated with 19th-century orchid lithographs.

Above the two-story coral-rock fireplace in the foyer is a painting of the hybrid Vanda Memorial Fred Fuchs by the botanical artist Angela Mirro. In the game room, competing with 19th-century Italian wing chairs in ostrich skin and 42 hunting trophies that he collected on African safaris, is a Tiffany-inspired stained-glass panel Mr. Fuchs designed — as large as a picture window in a Florida tract home — depicting still more orchids.

Mr. Fuchs's family came to Florida four generations ago, his German-born great-grandfather buying 160 acres in 1912 for \$4,700 before deciding he preferred baking bread to growing beans. His grandfather started a small nursery where Mr. Fuchs raised and sold African violets as a 10-year-old. After retiring from the local post office, his father, a part-time gardener, devoted all his time to growing orchids and leading orchid hunts in Latin America. By the time Mr. Fuchs graduated from high school, he was so involved with orchids his parents gave him a greenhouse, but it was not until his 1984 success that he could afford to raise orchids full-time.

Not everyone in the orchid world is a fan; he has been a controversial figure since he began winning international prizes, thanks largely to his strong personality. In "The Orchid Thief," Ms. Orlean says he "is brassy and opinionated and has at times gone out of his way to be argumentative."

Martin Motes, another prize-winning vanda grower who lives a few miles away, calls him "a good marketer and an incredible salesman," but adds that Mr. Fuchs is "a very dominant personality who can be relentless and needs to have absolute control." Dr. Motes's wife, Mary, wrote a darkly comic self-published novel in 2006 in which the villain, a controlling orchid society president, is clearly modeled on Mr. Fuchs.

Mr. Fuchs, who served two terms as trustee of the American Orchid Society and five as president of the South Florida Orchid Society, brushes off such criticism as the product of professional jealousies. He is not controlling, he said, "I'm organized and want to run it right, play by the rules and play with the team, but every team has a captain."

At the recent World Orchid Conference, Mr. Fuchs faced stiff competition from longtime rivals in the best display category. Employees kept him posted on the blooming status of the 1,000 orchids in his elaborate diorama, called "On the Road to Mandalay," a 1,000-square-foot exhibit that incorporated an antique Chinese cart, a Buddhist offertory temple and plastic foam mountains designed by his brother Richard, who creates displays for a Florida supermarket. By the time the judges assessed the scene, the mountains were ablaze in purple, lavender and white orchids. What edged Mr. Fuchs ahead was the "color flow" he achieved in placing his plants, said Marianne Montoro, one of the judges. "You could erect the Eiffel Tower, but it's still all about the quality of the flowers."

Mr. Fuchs was clearly satisfied, though by no means ready to rest on his laurels. He would be heading off shortly to head the judging at an El Salvador orchid show and then leading a tour of gardens and museums in Fuji, Australia and New Zealand.

"Anybody can get to the top," he said, "but staying there requires considerable effort."

His mother, in town for the competition, offered another take. "He's a perfectionist," she said. "He can't help it."

The American Orchid Society Webinars

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch the recorded webinars any time. Some webinars require you to be an AOS member.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	May 04, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	May 31, 2021 8:30pm EDT Monday	June 08, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	June 17, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<i>Prosthechea karwinskii</i> in Mexico, reintroducing a threatened species	Show Trophy Subjective or Objective	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Julia Douglas AOS Conservation Grant Recipient	Marc Burchette Head of Biltmore Estate Orchid Collection	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Quiz Answers

How to kill you Phal

1. B. Place in full sun
2. C. In a pot with no drainage
3. A. Ice
4. A. Neem oil and in the hot sun
5. B. Garden Soil

ORCHIDS MAGAZINE - Coming in June 2021

Our June issue is traditionally the month in which we publish the winner of the prior -year's Dillon-Peterson Essay Contest and announce the topic for the current year. Congratulations to Carol Zakahi of Kailua Kona, Hawaii. This month also features a beautifully illustrated article by Jean-Michel Hervouet and Chantal Misandeau on Ambodiriana forest protection in Madagascar and David Rosenfeld, MD continues his series *Who Were These Guys?* with a historical look at James Veitch, Sr. and the brothers Thomas and William Lobb.



Rounding out our June issue

- Tom's Monthly Checklist
- Orchid Places -Attached Greenhouses by Arthur E. Chadwick
- Genus of the Month - *Aeranthes* and the Green-Eyed Monster by Thomas Mirenda
- Judges' Corner - Judging *Miltoniopsis* by Mark Whelan
- The New Refugium Botanicum - *Stanhopea ecornuta* by Franco Pupulin
- Collector's Item - *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*; two different perspectives provided by Tom Perlite and Elisabeth

Some recent AOS awards, found in OrchidPro



Rhyncattleanthe **Fuchs Orange Nuggett 'Lea' CCM/AOS** **(82 points)**

(*Rhyncattleanthe* Orange Nuggett x
Cattlianthe Viola Sanjume)

Award No: 20211291 left

Exhibitor: David White

Photographer: Kay Clark

Florida North-Central Judging Center

Pterostylis concinna **'Dusty's Pea-Wee'** **CBR/AOS (0 points)**

Award No: 20212557 center

Exhibitor: Nile S. Dusdieker

Photographer: Nile Dusdieker

Chicago Judging Center

Papilionanda Batram

'Frank Smith'

FCC/AOS (92 points)

(*Papilionanda* Mimi Palmer x
Vanda denisoniana)

Award No: 20211287 right

The plants showcased here demonstrate the variety of awards granted by the AOS.

The CCM, Award No: 20211291, was given to the grower, and first time AOS exhibitor. He is now a proud member of the AOS.

Award No: 20212557 is something you do not see every day. A **CBR** is awarded to rare and unusual species with educational interest that has received no previous awards.

The judges liked **Award No: 20211287** enough to grant it an **FCC**, the highest flower-quality award designated for orchid species or hybrids scoring 90 points or more, on a 100-point scale.

To learn more about [orchid awards and judging](https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx) visit <https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging.aspx>