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THE KEIKI



Next meeting

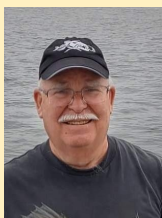


November 16th, 2024. Jeff Adkins will be our speaker. He has run an orchid nursery in Orlando for 30 years and is an AOS senior judge. He will share with us how to build a quality orchid collection - what to look for when purchasing plants, and how to have something beautiful in bloom all year.

Regular Monthly meetings are currently held on the 3rd Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at the **Krueger Enrichment Center, 392 Beverly Ct, Spring Hill, FL.**

President's Message

Hi everyone,



The year is going fast, fast, fast! We've all weathered two terribly destructive hurricanes, and Milton had the additional effect of cancelling our annual picnic. That was sad, as it's such a fun event, but we had no choice in the matter. I really hope that you all came through the storms with your homes and yourselves and your orchids intact. Marita and I had a lot of tree limbs down but nothing hit the house and now we have a bunch of nice cedar branches to mount orchids on. So there was a silver lining at least.

As November arrives along with shorter day lengths and colder temperatures it's time to make preparations to get your orchids through the winter. Consider what you will do with your plants that need warm temperatures (above 60 degrees). I bring most of my Bulbophyllums indoors in front of a glass block window that gives them nice bright but diffused light. Same goes for my hard-cane Dendrobiums like Den. Bigibbum and the other Phal-type Dendrobiums.

Next, are the plants that need to stay above 50 degrees, like the Vandas and Phals. Those I leave outdoors but watch the temperatures closely. If night-time temps will be below 50 degrees then I shift them inside my closed lanai until the temperature gets back above 50. Still others come inside when the temperatures get below 45 or 40 degrees.

This is also the time to stop watering and feeding plants that need a rest period with little or no water. That includes soft-cane Dendrobiums like Den. Nobile and other deciduous ones. Also Catasetinae and Habenarias: once their leaves start to turn brown, they need to be allowed to go dormant for several months and if you water them now they will rot and die. I find that a little water will not hurt the Dendrobiums – if it rains then mine get wet. But those Catasetinae and Habenarias need to stay dry and not cold. I bring mine inside the lanai for the winter. Also, most of the soft-cane Dendrobiums like a cool period and can tolerate temps down to near freezing. Same with Cymbidiums.

I hope to see you all at our November meeting.

Best wishes,

Matt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<u>Trustees</u>	Jeff Rundell
	Jeanne Montgomery

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2024

Updated as of 11/01/2024

Our annual Toys for Tots toy drive will be at our November meeting. We are asking for donations of unwrapped toys for children up to age 14.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEES

<u>Auction Chair</u>	Susan Kimmel
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<u>E-mail Coordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
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<u>Membership</u>	Carol Siegley
<u>Publicity</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Sunshine Greetings</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>Trips</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
	(Website set up by Ken Dunn)
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

December 14th, 2024. Annual Holiday Party!! More information at the November meeting!



Membership Notes

by Carol Siegley

Welcome new members!

Our total membership is now 157.



Selby Gardens 2024 Orchid Show—Theme—Purple!

Between the colors red and blue lies a range of vibrant hues that makes up the wild and wonderful world of purple. Immerse yourself in purple flowers and foliage at this year's ***Orchid Show at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus***, showcasing the magnificence and majesty of the royal family of plants.

Purple hues are common in the orchid family, found both in naturally occurring species orchids and in human-bred cultivars and hybrids. The prevalence of purple orchid flowers is a testament to the power of their allure for people and pollinators alike.

The Orchid Show 2024: PURPLE! presented by **Better-Gro**, will combine a stunning display of purple orchids in the Tropical Conservatory with a dynamic exhibition of botanical books, prints, photographs, and other materials in the Museum of Botany & the Arts. The conservatory will be filled with masses of purple orchid flowers and other plants with purple foliage. Ultraviolet light and purplish-colored films will be used to present these beautiful botanicals in fun and exciting ways, creating a rich and vivid visual experience. The museum will explore the history of purple pigments and dyes, as well as the many and varied associations of purple, ranging from royalty and luxury to wisdom and magic. The exhibition will also highlight the numerous botanical connections to purple hues, including rose, lavender, violet, and – of course – orchid!

Selby Gardens is home to the finest scientifically documented collection of living orchids in the world. *The Orchid Show* will build on the strength of this outstanding collection and celebrate the beauty and diversity of one of the most popular families of flowering plants.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORCHID

CURRAN'S FLOWERS

Thanks to a peculiar bee, it has been said that orchids were discovered anywhere between 26 and 110 million years ago. Since their discovery, the history, symbolism, and various names of orchids have been shaped by numerous cultures around the world. Derived from the Greek word meaning “boat,” Cymbidium Orchids were named after their boat-shaped lip. The Greeks also had an influence on the naming of Dendrobium Orchids, which means “life in a tree.” We can credit the Swedish Naturalist, Peter Osbeck for giving Phalaenopsis Orchids their nickname “moth orchid,” as he once mistook the plant for a cluster of moths.

Aside from their rich history, orchids have adopted an array of meanings and have since become a symbol of love, charm, beauty, refinement, thoughtfulness, and fertility.

Ancient Greece

As the ancient Greeks associated orchids with fertility, they also used this bloom to predict gender. With its varied sized roots, orchids with large tuberous roots symbolized a male baby while the small roots symbolized a female baby. As orchids are still a symbol of fertility today, especially pink orchid flowers, they're the perfect flower to celebrate baby showers, growing families, and new-borns.

Aztec Civilization

Power and strength are two qualities admired by the ancient Aztecs and believed to be symbolized by the orchid. Due to this symbolism, the Aztecs created their very own elixir by mixing vanilla orchids and chocolate to enhance these qualities in themselves. Whether we can credit the orchids or not, the Aztecs were once the most powerful empire in Mesoamerica.

Victorian Era

As a symbol of refinement and luxury, orchids were cherished by royal and wealthy families in the Victorian Era. This era soon saw the “Orchidelirium” as these families more than marveled at the beauty of these blooms, but became obsessed with collecting as many orchids as possible. Still today, orchids are a symbol of refined taste, and purple orchids remain a symbol of royalty.

Ancient China

Ancient Chinese medical practitioners were drawn to the orchid flower to help treat brutal coughs and lung diseases. In addition, they were also utilized in treatments for kidney diseases, eye diseases, and stomach deficiencies. As there are numerous types of orchids, the dendrobium orchid, commonly referred to as the “Bamboo Orchid,” was most often used in Chinese medicines. Green orchids remain a symbol of good health in most cultures, still today.

Japanese Culture

The Japanese culture saw the ability of orchids to thrive in a variety of environments, including both mountain habitats and the plains, as a sign of their strength, power, and luxurious and rich life. These familiar associations have translated into concrete symbols of the orchid. In addition, the symbol of fertility is also recognized in this culture as a beautiful meaning of this particular bloom. As such, orchids can be found in many homes and offices in Japan to bring good fortune in both their personal and business lives.

Past Speaker Segment

SPEAKER AT OUR APRIL 2011 MEETING

by Delia Dunn

Our speaker at our April meeting was Marian Twigg, a member of the West Pasco Orchid Club. Her topic was Orchids of South America, which was a chapter in the book, ORCHIDS OF THE WORLD.

She gave an informative talk, reading from that book along with slide presentation of large size illustrations from the book.

Marion said orchids can be very amusing to look at, sometimes resembling faces and other things and she found several that gave us a few laughs. She encouraged us to enjoy our plants and look at all our plants' details to see how they might resemble something else in nature.

A couple of interesting topics I noted were that Catasetums eject their own pollinia and that their sex is determined by how much light and how much water they get (we need to read the book to get those details).

Male Catasetum flowers have a specialized trigger mechanism. Catasetums are pollinated by male Euglossine bees. These bees are attracted to the powerful fragrances produced by the flowers and will swarm in large numbers. When a visiting bee accidentally trips the trigger, the pollinia are forcefully ejected from the anther cap and adhere to the bee's body. There is a lot of tension in these triggers and pollinia can be thrown several inches from the plant (can be up to 6 feet if nothing gets in the way) and at a speed measured in excess of 10 feet per second. The force involved has two purposes - first to cause the sticky pad to adhere firmly to the insect and second to get the insect to go to another flower.

And the Dracula species are pollinated by birds high in the Andes Mountains up to an elevation of 10,000 feet, in the fog.

There was so much more information given in her talk relating to the technical, beautiful, humorous and strange aspects of orchids that I think we all wished we could read the book for ourselves.

She did encourage us to find out where our plants come from and how they grow in their natural environment so that we can learn how to care for them properly and not just follow basic orchid culture. This is the same advice we've been given by other speakers at our meetings.

At the end of her presentation Marian very kindly donated ORCHIDS OF THE WORLD to our Club so that we can read and enjoy for ourselves. It is a large coffee table book with a retail value of \$50. Marian has no orchid related business and it was certainly a very nice thing for her to do. We thank her very much for this valuable addition to our Library.

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### Past Speaker Segment—continued

Addendum by Delia Dunn:

Our club had a very substantial library of orchid books, a few had some value due to the name of the author. We also had American Orchid Society Bulletins in the 1990s followed by The Magazine of the American Orchid Society called ORCHIDS, a small magazine in the mid-1990s. In the 2000s came their larger magazine called ORCHIDS and the Club had every month for all the years we had membership in the AOS. I have some of these magazines so that is how I figured out the dates.

We had a few different Librarians for several years and also the ability to borrow any book we wanted to read by ordering it online from our website and the Librarian would bring the book to the next meeting. A lot of work had gone into it mainly by Ken Dunn who had listed the name of every single book with a brief description of the contents of each, taken from the inner panel of the cover, and a number so as to identify the book online. Eventually and sadly the Library was disbanded due to lack of interest. There were well over 100 books (not counting magazines) given away or sold at meetings or put in the raffles over several months. Hopefully they brought in quite a lot of money for the Club.

I have a few nice books that I no longer want as I'm slowly reducing the size of my orchid collection – if anyone would be interested in *Orchid Growing by Peter McKenzie Black* or *ORCHID FEVER by Eric Hansen*, which we were told everyone should read; or *An Enthusiasm for Orchids by John Alcock* – let me know. They are free.

Contact Delia Dunn: [kdunno04@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kdunno04@tampabay.rr.com)



## AOS 6th ORCHID CULTURE DAY - Know more November: Orchid Culture, Conservation and You!

Sun, Nov 10, 2024 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST

The AOS is proud to announce its 6th Orchid Culture Day! Enjoy four great talks all in one day from the comfort of your home. It might already be snowing in some places, but we can always learn more about Orchids. Join Us! Spend a day with these accomplished speakers and learn about genera, history, hybridizing and, of course, CULTURE! There will be door prizes. There will be a Q&A session after each talk. All times listed are EASTERN.

### Our Speakers:

11:00 - 11:45 am John Romano - "How to Grow Award-Worthy Species Orchids." Take your orchid skills to the next level. Learn how to choose and grow species which may be threatened in their natural habitat. Additionally, you will learn how to prepare your orchids for judging.

11:45 - Noon Q and A

Noon - 12:15 Door Prize Spin and Break

12:15 - 1:00 pm Jason Fischer (Orchids Ltd.) - "Growing Vanilla." With the species population in decline and their habitat undergoing reduction and overexploitation, the vanilla orchid is listed on the endangered IUCN Red list of Threatened Species. This talk will cover various vanilla species, how to grow and produce the seedpod, harvest and create your own vanilla extract.

1:00 - 1:15 pm Q and A

1:15 - 1:30 pm Door Prize spin and Break

1:30 - 2:15 pm Lucy Matos-Lodato and Keith Clark - "Installing and Maintaining Orchids with the Flamingo Gardens Orchidteers." Join this orchid "squad" as they share tips and tricks on installing and maintaining orchids on trees. Learn the secrets of creating your own outdoor orchid oasis from this amazing team of volunteers who have transformed Flamingo Gardens in Davie, FL into an Orchid Paradise.

2:15 - 2:30 pm Q and A

2:30 - 2:45 Door Prize Spin and Break

2:45-3:30 pm Ben Oliveros (Orchid Eros) - "Hawaiian Sunrise and Greenhouse Growing." Tour the Orchid Eros nursery located on the slopes of the Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii and learn greenhouse culture tips from an Accredited orchid judge and multiple AOS Annual Award-winner.

3:30 - 3:45 pm Q and A.

3:45 - 4:00 Wrap up



Go to <https://www.aos.org/aos.org/cultureday> to register or to:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8048146281416824151>

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*Paul's Plantscapes*  
*Southern Smoked by JP*  
*85 Drips*  
*The Taco Ladies*

**NOV. 22-24**

CLOSED THURSDAY 11/21 FOR EVENT SETUP

|                   |                            |                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FRI<br/>22</b> | <b>9AM<br/>TO<br/>4PM</b>  | <b>12P ORCHID TALK:</b><br>WHAT SHOULD I GROW?<br>ORCHIDS FOR YOUR SPACE<br><b>SOUTHERN SMOKED BY JP</b> |
| <b>SAT<br/>23</b> | <b>9AM<br/>TO<br/>4PM</b>  | <b>11AM ORCHID TALK:</b><br>SEASONAL ORCHID GROWING<br><b>85 DRIPS</b><br><b>SOUTHERN SMOKED BY JP</b>   |
| <b>SUN<br/>24</b> | <b>10AM<br/>TO<br/>4PM</b> | <b>12P ORCHID TALK:</b><br>BEGINNER-FRIENDLY &<br>FREQUENT-BLOOMING ORCHIDS<br><b>THE TACO LADIES</b>    |

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## **Editor submission information:**

Please send all your regular monthly Keiki contributions to:  
[deemail@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:deemail@tampabay.rr.com) by the end of the month to be included in the next month's Keiki.

All members are welcome to send items to the editor.

Send photos of your orchids, go ahead, show them off!

Let us know of any shows or events that members would be interested in attending.

Tips, hacks, and great ideas on orchid growing are always appreciated.

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## **Sunshine Messages**



Know of a NCOS member needing a little sunshine in their life?

Contact Gertie Messenger at [choclabs@att.net](mailto:choclabs@att.net).

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## **Member Name Tags**

If you would like one of the wonderful name tags available to members, please contact Carol at: [carolbohning@yahoo.com](mailto:carolbohning@yahoo.com)  
Cost per name tag is approximately \$9.00 per tag. Exact cost to be determined when the order is put in.