



THE KEIKI



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Next Meeting



January 25th - "The Beautiful, The Unique & The Weird." Nick Rust is an avid grower & hybridizer. He started RustyExotic Orchids in 2019. He specializes in terrestrials but also grows jewel orchids, Castasetum, Bulbophyllum & several other orchid genera but also aroids & carnivorous plants. Nick will bring plants for sale.

New meeting location and date!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Spring Hill,

13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609

The FOURTH Saturday of the month

12PM Meeting starts — I am to 12pm social hour

CONTENTS

Page 1

Next Meeting/Event

President's Message

Page 2

Board Members

Speaker Schedule

Page 3

Membership

In Memoriam

Page 4, 5

Holiday Luncheon

Pages 6, 7

Past Speaker Segment

Page 8

AOS Webinars

Page 9

Editor Information

Sunshine Greetings

Name Tags

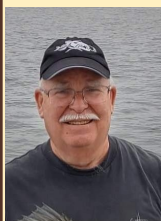
Page 10

2024 Index of Speakers
and Other Notable Info

Page 11

Upcoming Local Events

President's Message



Hi everyone,

2024 was a great year for our society. We had a great show in April, and a successful auction in August. Along the way we also had some terrific speakers, and I hope you all enjoyed their presentations and learned something new. I know I did! Unfortunately, hurricanes Helene and Milton conspired to tank our annual picnic in October, but we made up for it with a fun holiday party where all attendees received a gift orchid provided by Accent Orchids.

On a sad note, Helen Battistrada passed away in November. She was a long-time member of the society and served for several years as our treasurer.

As we move into 2025, we have some changes coming up. The major one is that we can no longer utilize the Krueger Center where we've been meeting. With some great work by Herb May and Susan Kimmel we have secured a **new meeting place which is at the St. Joan of Arc Catholic church in Spring Hill, the same place where we held our show last year. In order to do this we also have to move our meetings from the third to the fourth Saturday of each month. For anyone who may not know where the church is, the address is:**

13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609.

We'll be meeting in the parish hall, which is behind the main church. See you there on January 25th! We will host Nick Rust, of Rusty Exotics for his program "Orchids: The Beautiful, the Unique & the Weird." Specializing in all things terrestrial, Nick also cultivates Habaneria, Jewel, Catasetum, Bulbophyllum, Australian terrestrials, Aroid and Carnivorous orchids. His program will explore orchids from the common to bizarre. He will have plants for sale. Doors open at 11 AM and the meeting starts at noon.

We also have a great lineup of speakers for 2025 thanks to Susan Kimmel, our 2nd V.P. I want to remind everyone that dues are due now, so if you want to enjoy our 2025 programs I encourage you to bring a check or cash with you on January 25th. It's \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family at the same address.

Best wishes, and Happy New Year!

Matt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Past President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Bob East
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Susan Kimmel
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<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Trustees</u>	Jeff Rundell
	Jeanne Montgomery

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2025

Updated as of 1/01/2025

February 15- Naoki Kawamura - Coryanthes Orchids and hybrids. Learn how to grow & bloom this unique & intriguing orchid. Naoki's introduction to orchids started with buying a Phalaenopsis, then a few days later he decided he needed a Dendrobium, we all know how this story goes. He started by growing orchids under grow lights in Oregon to now growing on his pool deck in Venice. Naoki begun working on becoming an AOS judge in 2020 & is coming to share his love & knowledge of orchids with us. Naoki does not have an orchid nursery so members are invited to bring plants for sale.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEES

<u>Auction Chair</u>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Show Chair</u>	Bob East
<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>E-mail Coordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Nancy Huff
<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

March 15- Mark Sands will present "Renovation & Repopulation". Bringing native orchids back. Mike is the owner of Tangled Roots Orchid nursery in Loxahatchee. He was involved in the replacement of over 3000 orchids in the renovation & repopulation of the Everglades destroyed by the Army Corp of Engineers. He specializes in bi-foliate cattleyas & will be bringing plants for us to buy & will also have decomposing pots & a fertilizer that he developed that has had a built-in fungicide.

Membership Notes

by Carol Siegley

Welcome new members!

Our total membership is now 164.

In Memoriam



Helen Battistrada of Weeki Wachee, Florida, died on November 12, 2024 at the age of 100.

Along with her husband John, Helen was an avid gardener and enthusiast of plants and flowers. She enjoyed participating in multiple garden clubs and organizations and served as an officer with some of those groups.

Helen was a member of the Nature Coast Orchid Society for many years, acting as treasurer for several years, and always willing to help wherever her help was needed. When it came show time each year, Helen drove her late model Ford station wagon to the storage shed to load up with the club's show props and supplies, and bring them where needed. At each club's monthly meeting she always brought in cookies and a dish of candies. She only owned a few orchids, one of which was a beautiful Vanda that hung all year high up in a tree in her backyard.

She also volunteered at Friends of the Library of Hernando County and volunteered at a used bookstore that benefited local animal shelters. She was also a docent at the May-Stringer (Heritage) House and was a volunteer teacher's helper at a local elementary school throughout her time living in Florida.

2024 Holiday Party

The Holiday Party at Buffet City was fun for members. What a buffet! Everything was delicious.

A big thank you to Accent Orchids for supplying the wonderful mounted, blooming size orchids as the gift for each member who attended the party.

And thank you to all the members who brought in cookies for the cookie exchange.

Photos: Bryon Provencher





Jeanne Montgomery (above) and Randy Dugan (below) received AOS awards for their work for the Club.

Photos: Sonya Evans



PAST SPEAKER SEGMENT by Delia Dunn

A familiar face, Johnnie Hicks, with Hicks Orchids & Supplies, was speaker at our June meeting. He has been growing orchids for about 25 years and knows his subject well. He talked about the Psychology of Repotting and started by reminding us that orchids grow in the wild without pots; they have roots that go all over the place - they are buried in moss and you don't necessarily see them. Growing orchids in a basket upside down is closer to the way they grow on trees in the wild, rather than sitting upright in pots. His most asked question over the years has been 'what's the best medium to use and how often should I water?' Johnnie said he loves to water - he grows fantastic moss and ferns love him! He uses broken clay chunks from discarded broken pots as media and also lava rock and a little tree fern, all of which don't rot like bark. For those of us who love to water these are great tips.

He said that if you don't want to water that often, you can mix small amounts of sphagnum moss into your bark and it'll stay moist longer. Another idea was demonstrated by one of his plants that had a layer of sphagnum and then a layer of rocks, another layer of sphagnum and another layer of rocks and so on. Mesh baskets give orchid roots good air circulation and they will dry out fast and need to be watered when dry, much like plants growing in full sun in nature, which get moisture from the cracks and mosses. He said for those who want to grow Vandas but can't water them often enough, they can be potted rather than have their roots hang down loosely. Their roots can be encouraged to go into a pot by soaking them first, getting them soft and then wrapping them around the inside of the pot.

When potting, some orchids respond better to a medium like *Aliflor; and most like **Staylite, he said. A plant growing in bark will have a lot of the roots growing into pieces of bark and when repotting, many roots will also have died, being soft and brown due to over watering, and will need to be cut off. This also sets the plant back in flowering. However, removing a plant potted in rock is more easily done because the roots will come off the rocks if soaked first.

He said you can do a lot of things depending on how creative you are. As long as you understand your mediums and materials you can try different things, experiment and see what your plants best respond to. He still has his *Encyclia tampense* that he's been growing in his old flip flops for years, and it's in bloom right now. As far as when to pot, he says the best time is right before you see new roots appear.

If you water once or twice a week you might use a plastic pot with holes only in the bottom - a clay orchid pot with the slits in the sides allows for more watering or not, and they don't tip over as easily so a large plant might do better in that.

He showed us a blooming *Phal.* and said that when it's finished blooming he'd cut the stem off. This is to conserve the strength of the plant. Sometimes the stems will remain green and put out another shoot above the cut. If the stem eventually turns brown then it's dead and he cuts it off near the bottom. There are some star-shaped *Phals* that bloom like a pendant that you never take the stem off, he said. (See Note at the bottom) He suggests repotting *Phals* every year or every other year at most; pot in a net basket if you water a lot. We know that watering in the top leaf will cause crown rot and the plant will die, however, in his experience, if it rains and gets in the top leaf it will not cause crown rot but he added that doesn't work if you store rain water to use later.

The best way to water any orchid is to drench the plants early in the morning then wait a bit and go back and drench again, finishing before 11 am. That method will ensure the medium is saturated and the roots will get the water they need before the high heat of the day and having enough time that the plant is not saturated in the late hours of the day when problems might develop.

Question from the membership: A Cattleya in a clay pot with roots all wrapped around the outside of the pot::: Johnnie said he soaks the plant in Super Thrive which is a hormone supplement and gives the plant an added boost to combat the stress of being separated from the pot. After soaking, they can be carefully scraped off the side with something flat like a sharp knife. (Ed Bugbee says he 'jets' them off with the hose & then pulls the plant off the pot.)

From a website in relation to Johnnie's topic: 'Phalaenopsis can be re-bloomed from the same 'just-bloomed' spikes by going down to the first node below the lowest bloom on the spike, and cutting the spike off about half an inch above this node. This should only be done on healthy robust plants. Flowering uses a lot of energy and only a strong plant can bloom again within the same season.' 'A few phalaenopsis species by nature, re-bloom on old flowering stems. Flower stems, or spikes on these should not be cut off. Examples are Phalaenopsis bellina, cornu-cervi, fasciata, hieroglyphica, modesta, and zebrina. These flowers all tend to 1) be star shaped, 2) have small lips and 3) bloom on shorter stems near the base of the plant and are usually barred or striped in darker colors.'

*Aliflor is a lightweight expanded clay aggregate (LECA). It is uneven in shape and size providing excellent aeration and good support for orchid roots. It has a neutral PH and is very long lasting and is especially popular in wet humid environments because it does not break down and helps resist orchid mix compaction and rot. It can be used alone or in any mix and is also used in hydroponic or semi-hydro orchid growing.

**Stalite Slate is an all natural medium mined in the United States from volcanic slate which is then rotary kiln fired to over 2000 degrees. The material is then made into sterile granules or pieces that are extremely porous and PH neutral. It has the ability to aerate and also hold moisture/nutrients for orchid roots to seek. Because it is essentially a type of lightweight rock, it is extremely durable, and will not compress. It has low absorption yet the pores store vital moisture and nutrients for uptake.

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY www.aos.org/webinars

Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry.

Register now and view on your time schedule.

Send Your Greenhouse Chat Questions and Photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Jan. 02, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Jan. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 05, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 12, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Dec. 31, 2024</i>	Inorganic Potting Media, Never Repot Again Part 1 Semi-hydroponic growing	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 03</i>	Inorganic Potting Media, Never Repot Again Part 2
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Long time orchid grower across multiple states and in different environments.	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Long time orchid grower across multiple states and in different environments.



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

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WEBINAR
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Editor submission information:

Please send all your regular monthly Keiki contributions to:
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.

Sunshine Messages

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



Contact Gertie Messenger at choclabs@att.net.

Member Name Tags

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

2024 Index of Topics and Speakers, and Other Notable Information in the Newsletters.

January — Dendrobiums - speaker Jim Roberts

February — Vandas - Lady Vanda Orchids
Orchid Pests and Diseases - Jim Roberts

March — Cattleyas in Brazil - Francisco Miranda

April — Growing and Flowering Better Cattleyas - Courtney Hackney

May — Orchid Show and Ribbon Winners

June — Repotting, Dividing, and Mounting Workshop

July — Brassavola Orchids - Jim and Melana Davison

August — Habenaria Orchids - Nicolas Rust

September — Auction Recap
Orchid Taxonomy

October — Florida's Ghost Orchid
Dendrobiums - Brett Ullery

November — Cultural Significance of Orchids

December — Bulbophyllums - Lady Vanda Orchids



Apopka International Winter Orchid Festival

Check Krull Smith Orchid website for updated information on the Apopka International Winter Orchid Festival— finalized information not posted as of this writing.

<https://www.krullsmith.com/t-contact.aspx#events>

The Apopka International Winter Orchid Festival brings in a wonderful array of orchid growers coming from around the world and around the country to bring in the newest hybrids and rarest species! Allied vendors will also bring supplies, Anthurium, Philodendron, Hoyas, and more. Come enjoy the vendors and walk through the greenhouses loaded with beautiful specimen plants during the peak blooming time of our Cattleyas! Come see us from 9-5 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2800 W. Ponkan Rd. in Apopka, Florida.