



THE KEIKI



Volume 34

Issue 11

November 2025



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Nov. 22- Keith Emig of Winter Haven Orchids, will talk about Vandaceous Orchids other than Vandas. He will teach us about the unusual orchids in that genus; Aerides, Angraecoid, Neofinetia, Renanthes & Rhynchostylis. He will be bringing orchids to sell.

President's Message



Hi everyone,

As I write this, we've had our annual picnic at Crew's Lake. What a great event! About 40 people showed up for great food, great weather and an all-around good time with friends. We had some lovely orchids for our show table, some fun games, and lots of great socializing. There were lots of great salads, snacks and desserts brought by our members. Our most excellent chefs cooked hamburgers and hot dogs, even including some organic and vegan fare. There were even deviled eggs – my favorite! If you missed it, you'll have to wait until next year for our next one.

Our November meeting will feature Keith Emig of Winter Haven Orchids, talking about Vandaceous Orchids other than Vandas. He will teach us about the unusual orchids in that genus; Aerides, Angraecoid, Neofinetia, Renanthes & Rhynchostylis. He will be bringing orchids to sell. We will also have the Toys for Tots box at the meeting, so anyone who wants to donate a child's toy can bring it then.

Next up is our Holiday Party. This year we'll hold it on Saturday, December 13th, at Buffet City on Cortez Blvd. in Brooksville. Not ALL the details have been worked out, but we usually have individuals pay their food bill (usually around \$12), and the club will pick up the tab for drinks and tips. Stay tuned for more info.

It's nearly time to begin the annual "orchid shuffle" for those of us who have our orchids outdoors. As we watch hurricane Melissa devastate Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, we expect to be kept safe here by a cold front that's pushing across our state. The downside of that is that it's bringing unseasonably cool air with it, and night temps in the 40's for our area on Friday. I plan to bring my vandas inside, as well as my hard-cane Dendrobiums and some other plants that don't like temps below 50 or even 60. I've stopped feeding my soft-cane Dendrobiums and reducing water for them as they enter dormancy. Catasetinae will follow soon. By the end of November I expect to have all of my warm growers that don't like temps below 60 indoors for the winter.

Happy Thanksgiving, and best wishes for happy orchids!

Matt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Past President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Bob East
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<u>Trustees</u>	Jeff Rundell
	Jeanne Montgomery

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2025

Updated as of 11/01/2025

The Toys for Tots collection box will be at the November meeting! If you would like to make a donation to this wonderful cause, please bring a toy for a child up to age 14.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEES

<u>Auction Chair</u>	Susan Kimmel
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<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- Our annual Holiday party at Buffet City in Brooksville. More info to come at the November meeting!



January 2026

Now is the time to prepare your orchids for our show in March & Ryan Kowalczyk is the right person to teach us how to get your orchids looking their best for the show & judging. Ryan is an accredited AOS judge & has been growing orchids for 40 years. He specializes in growing Cattleyas, Catasetums & Paphs. He's received 175 AOS awards on his orchids & most were quality awards. He's also won 5 of the special yearly awards given internationally by the AOS. Join us to learn how to grow even more beautiful orchids.

Pictures from the Picnic



Pictures from the picnic continued



Winter is coming! Are your orchids ready?

Read the next pages of this newsletter to get plenty of ideas from members who are creatively and inexpensively finding ways to protect their precious orchids for the winter months.

Nancy Huff shared this picture on our Facebook page of a simple wooden A-frame on wheels that provides plenty of room for her plants, and makes it very easy to roll right into the garage on a cold night.



An Inexpensive Option for a Greenhouse

By Payton Millican

As your love of orchids and your collection expands, you may want to think about where to put all of your fragile tropical varieties. A greenhouse is a simple, but often expensive, option. Last year, I decided to try my hand at controlled growth on a cheaper budget by purchasing a greenhouse kit from an online supplier. I'd like to offer my experiences and methods for carrying this out, as well as pricing for everything within a budget.

Selecting a kit for yourself:

First, assess the size of your collection and the amount of space available in your yard. I would suggest you buy a house larger than you currently need so you can fill it with more plants, but not so big that it is mostly empty, as in wintertime plants maintain humidity and temperature better than open air. In general, you can use shade cloth to block out too much sunlight, but you won't be able to obtain extra light if your trees or house block the area you want to use. Very few orchids like the harsh mid-day to afternoon direct sun. Ideally, your greenhouse's longest wall should face south, where the sun shines, with minimum exposure to the north east where our cold front blows from. We also have a general east-west wind direction throughout the summer, when you need the most ventilation, so your door or vents should be oriented this way.

I chose to use an Outsunny brand 12'x 10' walk-in greenhouse with a polyethene zippered soft cover which can be found on Amazon for less than \$100. These kits use galvanized steel pipes which bolt together with minimal skill required, but because of the shape and size, it is a two person job. When selecting, ensure you get a kit with walls that are vertical (perpendicular) from the ground so you can utilize all of the square footage. The rounded hoop style houses have large areas near the edges where you cannot place plants because of limited overhead clearance. If you choose a kit like myself you will need to use bricks or sandbags to hold down the skirt of the PE cover to the ground to keep a tight seal and anchor the house during wind. Lowes has 25 empty sandbags for \$16. Flooring needs to be considered as well. If you already have a slab or paver patio it would be a better location than on the ground directly as many pests can get in easier and without much watering placing it on just dirt or grass your interior will turn to mud. Large patio pavers or brick is ideal. You need some drainage so water doesn't pool too much but also not too much as excess water on the ground will evaporate, maintaining a happy environment for the plants well after watering days. Gravel or river rock can work as well but consider what you will be placing on top and if it will be stable sitting on top the loose surface material.

Electrical:

Orchids require air circulation so a fan will be needed in the greenhouse. It's a very humid environment so normal house box fans won't survive long. I settled on two Vornado brand shop fans with an IP54 'splash proof' rating and built-in replaceable fuse in the plug to avoid electrical shorts if I accidentally hit it with the hose. During winter the sun won't warm the house enough to keep it in a happy medium above 55 at night. Space heaters don't do well, but I have found that heating lamps for chickens are quite effective. I installed four for my medium sized house to cover most of the square footage. They run \$15 each at places like tractor supply and rural king with 250W bulbs running about \$7 each. During our last cold front I had lows of 42 and 41 and the interior temp never dipped below 58. I will augment this with a 1500w space heater during the colder spells after the first of the year.

If you don't like an ominous red glow from the bulbs in your backyard, you can use ceramic bulbs that give off no light but they are a bit more expensive. When it comes to wiring your fans and lamps up you need to consider waterproofing again. I bought a large outdoor electrical waterproof connection box for \$20 and some extension cord cable covers for \$6 each on Amazon again. This will save you replacing a lamp or fan from an errant spray with the hose as well. Inside the box you will need some power strips, I went with two 1875w three plug outdoor strips for \$18 each. I suggest not overloading a single circuit if you have six power hungry items like I do. I had to use two 10' extension cords and two 15' which run about \$10 each. Lastly but possibly most important you will need a thermometer with humidity monitoring. I found many wireless options with three stations for around \$20. I use two inside the house in varied locations and a third just outside the house. The more filled your house is, the less the ambient temperature outside will affect it.

Shelves and tables:

After assembly of the house you have to consider where to place your plants within. They need to be at least 18" off the ground with very good drainage and ventilation. Following my theme of budget friendly, I choose Harbor freight Yukon brand plastic shelving units. They sell a five tier 36" wide unit which can be partially assembled into three flats and two uprights. they run \$60 normally with regular sales at \$40 each. Two extra things I purchased are acacia wood outdoor patio benches to use as a place to sit plants and for myself. These are the most expensive individual items I used at about \$80-140 for a 48"+ length via Amazon again. They provide a good stable home for my taller plants. You will likely be able to use some of the furniture or shelves you are currently using for your collection and save some money here.

Making your own hangers:

If you have a lot of hanging plants I do not suggest overloading the frame of the house as it's not designed to have anything hanging from the frame. A small amount of plants may be fine but be careful once the steel pipes crease and bend its game over. Since I have a lot of mounted orchids, I decided to make a couple walls to hang orchids on using a vinyl privacy lattice from Lowes. The privacy lattice has smaller holes than normal lattice for easier placement. I used 304 stainless furniture L-brackets, SS304 screws, cedar 1x2, and 1x4 boards to make a frame with feet. I suggest a quick coat of teak oil for the cedar. Prices for each were about \$90 total, lattice was \$42 a sheet, and boards were \$5 and \$10 each for the 4x1 in 8 foot lengths. Be careful when selecting cedar from the big box stores the quality was abysmal and many boards are not very straight. I can share my design for this with anyone interested individually, but you will need some proficiency with power tools like a circular saw for this project.

Prices for my setup:

\$100 Greenhouse Outsunny 12x10 walk-in
\$16 25x Sandbags
\$120 2x Vornado small box fan
\$88 4x Heating lamps and bulbs
\$64 4x Extension cords and electrical waterproofing
\$20 Thermometer
\$36 2x Power strip
Total \$444

Optional interior items:

\$120 3x Yukon brand shelves
\$180 2x Lattice hanging wall
\$220 2x Wood benches
Total \$520

I hope my shared experience motivates you to increase your collection and try to grow some more exotic orchids! If anyone wants more information I'll be glad to share at any of our upcoming meetings.



Above: The framed out lattice panels for the hanging orchids. Below: An overall view of the interior.





Above: The teak bench, and plastic shelving for the orchids.

Below: The heat lamps to keep everyone warm.





Above: Exterior view of the greenhouse structure, below: the heat lamps at night.



This is the second in a series of articles as part of the “Members Garden Tour”, where we’ll visit the special orchid garden spaces belonging to our Club members. These articles will occasionally appear in future Keikis. Enjoy!

The second garden we visit belongs to Club members Denise and Bryon Provencher.

Write-up: Denise Provencher Photos: Bryon Provencher

It all started with a Dancing Lady Oncidium purchased at the annual Boston Flower Show back in the mid ‘80s. The reliable brilliant yellow blossoms lit up the dining room every spring. Soon friends and neighbors were getting divisions, and they were also surprised at how easy it was to grow. Then came the rescue orchids. Big box stores often had marked down orchids, mostly phals that were looking for that last chance at life. They were a bit risky, as they may be in declining health as it is, but most went on to bloom another year.

After moving to Florida almost 20 years ago, with the amazing plethora of orchids readily available, it was easy to add to the collection. But, we didn’t always know all we needed to know about the different types of orchids, and sometimes lost plants to this lack of know-how. We still consider ourselves beginners at orchid growing. It was only in recent years that we became aware of the Nature Coast Orchid Society, and all that we have learned since joining the Society is amazing.

We currently have about 150 different orchids. They have been housed in our “greenhouse”, really a very heavy duty 20’ x 40’ metal carport frame, with wire reinforced heavy duty greenhouse plastic on the roof, and both frost cloth and 4ml plastic sides that are put up during the cold season as needed. The roof stays on all year, as it would difficult to take off due to the size and height of the

greenhouse. Originally, we had tropical trees in the structure, hence the 13’ peak height. Plus, the roof plastic helps to diffuse sun, and allows me to control the water plants get. The cacti and succulents that are housed there appreciate that. The structure is well protected from winter winds by being placed on the south side of our home.

After hurricane Milton toppled the greenhouse last fall, we took it as an opportunity to make things even better for the plants inside. While we worked on repairing and upgrading their home, our orchids spent the past winter on rolling carts being rolled into the garage every night, spending almost every day rolled outside (see picture). Boy did they bloom though!



Don’t think they minded the situation a bit.

Other plants such as bromeliads, cactus, succulents, a mango tree, and even a cocoa tree (yes, it produces lots of fruit to get chocolate nibs from) also share the greenhouse space. They don’t need as much temperature control, so they are placed along the outer walls. The orchids take center stage in a wooden frame, of course embellished with beautiful metal artwork. This inner structure can be enclosed additionally if super cold weather is expected. A separate space heater can then be placed within this additional covered space for extra protection. The structure has thick metal rods for hanging plants, angled frames made with closet shelving and 2x4s for mounted orchids, and shelves for pots. We enjoy using recycled items for plant stands, baskets, etc. to hold the orchids. So many items that can be used this way are found readily at yard sales and thrift stores. It’s fun to paint them up and put a happy plant in them. I think they feel more beautiful too.

Heating/cooling: We use up to 3 space heaters to keep the plants comfy during cold spells (temps below 45 degrees). The heaters with fan forced air are preferred over radiant heaters, as they will move the air very well. These are placed on pavers on the floor, powered by extension cords run from dedicated outlets we had installed on the exterior of our home. The vandas come inside the house during the cold, but the other orchids can handle the mid 40's that can be encountered in the greenhouse. In the summer, 40% shade cloth helps with the section of plants that don't want a whole lot of sun.

Pests: As far as pests go, the Cardinals are the worst pests. What thieves! All labels must be very secure with their plants. Male cardinals enjoy taking labels and presenting them to their mates. I assume the gals must be pretty impressed with these gifts, as this has been going on forever. Sometimes I find labels in the cardinals nest after they vacate and can retrieve them, or in the yard. Keep those labels secured. It's fairly easy to punch a tiny hole in a plastic tag, and use metal picture wire to secure the tag to the plant/pot/mount.

Other than the rascal cardinals, occasionally there are ants. We had a set large basket on the ground and biting bulldog ants got into it and set up shop. When we moved the basket, they came out to attack. After disrupting their activity, they left on their own, but I would certainly recommend not putting a pot or basket on the ground!

Fertilizing: We use a standard orchid fertilizer. Granules can be applied to pots directly, but those hanging/mounted that need a liquid, get a weak solution applied by sprayer.

Watering: We have well water for irrigation. The water is excellent quality from a deep well.

Do the plants go out of the greenhouse in the summer:

No, not all of them, there is too many to move. They stay either in the greenhouse, or sometimes if in bloom, we bring them inside the house to better enjoy their blooms and fragrance. The thunderstorm orchid however, does enjoy a good thunderstorm outside!

Improvement project: To catalog each orchid's bloom time. Many of the purchases made in the past 2 years are such small starter plants that it is unknown what their blooming time will be for us. That is the latest project. Since bloom time is very regular this will help in determining what to expect for any given month, or if we decide to show our orchids.

Challenge – understanding different orchids need different specific requirements, and trying to group those with similar needs together within the greenhouse space.

Easiest/hardest to grow in the current collection:

The easiest without doubt is the dancing lady oncidium. We highly recommend this type of orchid to anyone just starting out growing orchids. This plant was over 6 feet in diameter this spring, with 50-60 flower stalks, each with dozens of flowers. The plant was recently divided. It grows with hardly attention at all, has survived temperatures into the low 30's, grows without any medium, little water at times, and survived being crushed by the greenhouse after the hurricane.

Hardest would be the habeneria. These are a bit challenging with their special dormancy, and desire for wet roots. Two plants were purchased one year ago. They both produced foliage this year, but no flowers. Maybe next year.

Recent addition: A tall 30" high velocity, industrial fan, adjustable to 6 feet high moves the air. Due to size and height of the greenhouse, this tall fan will push the air without having to be blowing directly on the plants themselves. It's able to take the greenhouse environment and occasional splashing of water. For additional humidity on those winter stretches of dry air, a mister is placed in front of the fan to distribute moisture air to the plants.



Above left: The carport frame with reinforced greenhouse plastic, and shade cloth over, as installed in 2020. The lattice is being installed on the sides (lower portion of the lattice is not completed in this picture). Lattice breaks the wind when the sides are not on, provides some shade, and also supports the sides when they are on.

Above right: Interior picture shows wooden supports, the heavy 6x6s that the frame is bolted to, and the 1x6 lumber used at a height of 6 feet that allows room for the roof plastic to be attached as well as the J-channel for the sides to be attached to. The sides are very quick and easy to put on/off.

Bottom left: A closer view of the mounted 1x6 that holds the J-channel for the side protection materials and roof plastic. The plastic has been pulled away slightly to show the attachments.

Bottom right: Plastic sides on, door open, but ready to close for a cold night.





Above: Milton made a mess.

Below: The start of construction on the orchid frame.

Below Right: The orchid frame stained. The closet shelving is very inexpensive and vinyl coated to last long. Great for pots, and angled slightly to support mounted orchids.



Latest pictures from the Nature Coast Botanic Garden showing all the hard work our member volunteers are putting into beautifying the Orchid Display there for all to enjoy. Photos: Jeff Rundell



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 summarized by topic for future viewing.

When	Nov. 04, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Nov. 12, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	Winter Break	Jan. 08, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Nov. 01</i>	Greenhouse Culture and Technology Tips for growing in a greenhouse. Learn about technology to help you grow better.	Choose Your Topic From Our Library of RECORDED WEBINARS	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Jan. 05</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Manny Aybar Accredited AOS Judge, Orchid Grower, Frequent Guest Speaker	Expert Growers, Conservationists, AOS Judges, Hobbyists, and more!	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer



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

Use the
WEBINAR
Display
Filter

Local Orchid Events

Nov 15, 2025, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST

FL Botanical Gardens - Walsingham Road, 12211 Walsingham Rd, Largo, FL 33778, USA

Florida West Coast Orchid Society Members will be selling their plants and supplies!

8am - 11am

General Orchid Care Class at 11:15am.

FREE ADMISSION - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



PALMER ORCHIDS FALL OPEN HOUSE
 22700 TAYLOR DR., BRADENTON, FL 34211

EVENT HOURS & ORCHID TALKS

CLOSED THU 11/20 FOR EVENT SETUP

FRI NOV 21 9 - 4
 12P: WHAT SHOULD I GROW? ORCHIDS FOR YOUR SPACE
 SOUTHERN SMOKED BY JP (BBQ)

SAT NOV 22 9 - 4
 12P: SEASONAL ORCHID GROWING
 SOUTHERN SMOKED BY JP (BBQ)

SUN NOV 23 10 - 4
 12P: BEGINNER-FRIENDLY & FREQUENT-BLOOMING ORCHIDS
 FEWD TENT (TACOS & MORE)

GUEST VENDORS

ART STONE ORCHIDS
 BREDREN ORCHIDS
 JUST ONE MORE ORCHID
 ORCHIDS 365
 PAT'S ORCHID BASKETS & MOUNTS
 PAUL'S PLANTSCAPES

ALSO FEATURING

The \$10 Tent, special event pricing on select orchids, orchid arrangements, & dazzling displays of blooming orchids!

WWW.PALMERORCHIDS.COM INFO@PALMERORCHIDS.COM



If you haven't paid your annual dues (January through December) yet, please remember to do so. Yearly dues are due by January 1st. Your dues covers not only administrative costs, but also allow the Club to provide wonderful speakers at monthly meetings, the annual picnic and holiday party, as well as other educational opportunities and events, such as the show and auction. Annual dues is \$20 for single individual, or \$25 for household. You may bring your dues to the next meeting. Cash or check.

Current membership is 126.



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 Debra at: ddmay38385@aol.com or Carol at: corvalor21@gmail.com

Cost per name tag is approximately \$9.00 per tag. Exact cost to be determined when the order is put in.