



THE KEIKI



Volume 34

Issue 9

September 2025

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Next Meeting



September 27– Melana and Jim Davidson will teach us about growing and blooming Catasetum orchids. They own Jim-N-I orchids in Homestead where they grow Cattleyas, Bulbophyllums, Phalaenopsis & Dendrobiums. Between the 2 of them they have 30 years experience & both are accredited AOS judges. They will be bringing plants for us to buy.

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

President's Message

Hi everyone,

Great news this month: our auction on August 23rd was a huge success! I want to thank everyone who volunteered and/or came to bid on plants. A HUGE Thank You!!!! Also, thank you to everyone who donated plants!! Here are some numbers for you:



Total bidders:	71
Members bidding:	45
Non-members bidding:	26

Total plants sold:	207
Total plant sales:	\$8,135
Total Profit for NCOS:	\$5,962

So it was really great! The profit we made will ensure that we can continue to have great speakers and programs for the coming year. We'll also be able to pay our bills, especially insurance. YAY!

Aside from the numbers, we had some really great plants, including some rare and unusual ones. I hope you went home with one or two (or six or seven!) and that you had a great time. The food was great, too, as was the camaraderie. So big thanks to everyone who brought goodies, and to Annie and Paul Aierstock for organizing it all. Also, did you like the large banners we set out along the roadway in front of the church? Herb made those for us, and I think they really helped since they were so visible. We had several people come in to bid who said they'd seen them as they drove by. We also had bidders from as far away as Tallahassee! So I think that our efforts to have plant lists early and publish the list two weeks in advance allowed people to see what was available and come to get those special plants.

We have a few more special events scheduled through the end of the year:

September 27th is our regular meeting, with Jim and Melana Davison telling us about how to grow Catasetums.

October 26th (note change in date) is our annual picnic at Crew's Lake Park.

November 22nd Keith Evand of Winter Haven Orchids will talk about Vandaceous orchids other than vandas.

December 13th - our annual holiday party, held once again at Buffet City on Cortez Blvd. in Brooksville.

Best wishes, everyone!

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
<u>Treasurer</u>	Herbert May
<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 9/01/2025

Oct. 26 Sunday – Please note the change in date as facility was not available on Saturday. Annual picnic at Crews Lake Park in Shady Hills area of Pasco County. More info to come.



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>	Debra May Carol Kirk
<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

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.

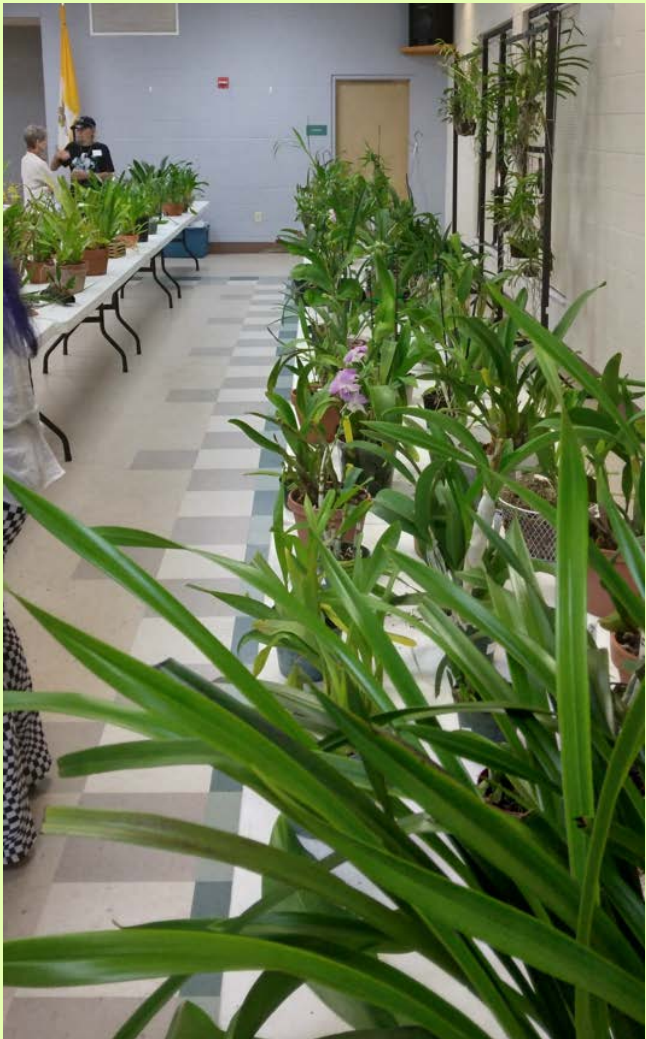
December- Our annual Holiday party at Buffet City in Brooksville.



Pictures from the Auction
Photos: Bryon Provencher



More Auction Pictures Continued



More Auction Pictures Continued



The winning bidder! Photo: Nancy Huff

Past Speaker Segment—Jan. 21, 2012

Ed Bugbee's Trip to Panama

Club member, Ed Bugbee, owner of Featherstone Orchids in Crystal River, was our January speaker. He and his wife, Lyn, are waiting for the day they can make their move to Panama. They have already sold the contents of two greenhouses and one more to go. In the meantime, they have to be satisfied with looking at pictures and slides of their previous trips to Panama and we were all greatly enlightened after we saw Panama for ourselves, from his talk and slide presentation.

First, he explained the geography of the region in relationship to the Panama Canal - Panama actually runs in an east to west direction and the Canal north and south. There are many mangrove swamps in the area similar to the ones we have here in the Gulf of Mexico. The Bugbees want to live in the mountains near Costa Rica where the temperatures are 75-80 degrees in the daytime and 60 degrees at night. He showed us where his friends who live there wanted to build which is high enough in the mountains that they can see both the Caribbean on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. The house they built on the beach may have cost \$300,000 to build where here in the States it may have been around \$2 million. We saw the beach area where the tide can drop 18 ft. The beach is all sand but further out under the water there are all sizes of ugly rocks where oysters abound and when the tide is out these rocks are on the beach and you can go out and collect the oysters.

Gaspar Silvera, a friend of theirs, took them to the Altos de Campana National Park which is one of the closest national forests to Panama which is about 1.5 hrs west of the city, and showed them mountains covered in orchids and outcroppings literally dripping with them. You might have to walk 4 hours to get to them as they are so high up and then you'd have to rappel down. '*No Estoy*' meaning 'nobody home' in Spanish, means 'keep out' to the locals - They may be home but they want privacy and don't want to come to the door, so you're to stay away. That sign could be found hanging on front porches. They saw *Ornithocephalis* that is predominant and self-propagates in trees. It grows any which way, up, down, sideways all over the trees; *Pleurothallis* with its all raggedy leaves grows everywhere. He told us all the different ways the various plants grow - they attempt to grow upwards to get away from all the leaves of the other plants. They saw a huge fallen tree which must have been 5-6' in diameter and by falling had crushed another tree and therefore made a large 'hole' in the jungle, which was evident by looking upward. Since he had a permit to collect the orchids which fell with the trees, Gaspar made a point of looking for these 'holes' above the jungle. We saw pictures of Bromeliads, which also grow wild among the orchids, and a young Iguana, which was about 3' long. To put things in perspective they were so high up in the mountains that coming out of the jungle they were at cloud level.

Their friend who lives there left to go to college in Baltimore, then onto Johns Hopkins where he earned his Doctorate and then moved back to Panama. To give us an idea of cost of living Ed explained that the doctor might earn \$900-\$1,000 per month; a laborer might earn \$300 per month; a maid or a gardner \$7-10 a day and a plumber \$15 a day and it's \$2 for a propane tank fill. Ten mangoes can be gotten for \$1 at an outdoor market, also a Papaya-like fruit, but to buy one of these at the grocery store might be \$10 for half of one! To give another example, Ed and Lyn ate a very nice lunch including large drinks at a place where he also got his truck washed by local kids and all of it for \$10 (and did he say the truck was a large one?) We saw many pictures of the beautiful local flowers that grow like weeds there, and local men sitting around drinking a case of beer while shoving hot 1" metal pipes through plastic plant pots for drainage holes.

Ed next took us on a visual trip to the Miraflores Locks at the canal. Miraflores is the name of one of the three locks that form part of the Panama Canal and the name of the small lake that separates these locks from the Pedro Miguel locks upstream. He described the electric tugs that take the ship through the canal and the \$1million tugs that are called 'electric mules' that protect the ship from the sides of the locks. They're currently spending \$8 billion to enlarge the canal.

Following that excursion, we visited the Aprovaca, the orchid conservation center in El Valle, Panama, dedicated to the conservation of native Panamanian orchid species in danger of extinction. The local orchids are facing two main problems: deforestation and poaching. The trees in the surrounding mountains are being cut down, and since most orchids are epiphytes (meaning they grow on trees), this practice deprives orchids of their natural habitat. Aprovaca contributes to the conservation of endangered Panamanian orchids. Their project consists of propagating about 100 different kinds of native orchids and reintroducing them back to the wild. Vanilla has more varieties in Panama than anywhere else. *Peristeria alata* is the flower of Panama. Pictures depicted some of the ways the locals grow their orchid species and various crosses.

Then Ed showed us *slides of their visit with the Embera Indians and the large dugout canoe made from the large tree that had fallen in the forest. The Indian children were having tattoos painted on with local dye that would last about 6-8 weeks. The women fried fish and plantains in a fireplace built on the wood floor of the house using 30 layers of banana leaves lined with 3" of mud. They'd wash the grease off their hands by adding a type of basil to the water. They had taken colored balloons for the visit in tapered sizes all tied one on top of the other and the children would play sword fights with them. It was also the first time the Embera children had ever had chocolates and when given one, taught to be polite, each said 'gracias' in appreciation. They also went on a medicine walk, met a real 'medicine man' who seeing a man not feeling well and not wanting to eat, touched the man on his stomach, disappeared into the jungle, and came back quite a while later with leaves. He told the man to chew them and spit them out and later the man said his stomach felt better and he had his appetite back. It would seem medical care in parts of Panama might be cheaper than in the States☺

Tidbits to remember:

- *Coconuts grow in warm climates and won't grow in the mountains!*
- *When putting orchid plants in a compot they can be placed far apart as the growing conditions in Panama are perfect and the plants will grow stronger than if they were planted closer together.*

Panama City is building like crazy, Ed said, as we viewed slides of the City, and you can get a condo for \$150,000, which could cost \$1 million in New York City. Some of the attractive old hotels around the airport have beautiful extensive pools and surrounding scenery. No matter where one chooses to live whether it be the mountains, the beach or the City, after seeing all these beautiful images it give us an idea of the life Ed and Lyn look forward to.



Top left: Altos de Campana National Park

Bottom Left: Beautiful Embera Indians

Right: *Peristeria alata* is the flower of Panama

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	Sept. 11, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 23, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	Oct. 13, 2025 Monday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	<i>Master Orchidist Series</i> Best Methods for Indoor Pest Management Explore pest problems of indoor orchid growing.	AOS Awards— The Honor of Cultural Excellence Review the plants that earned this award for their grower/owner. Get growing tips.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 06</i>	The World of Phragmipediums, What Nature Can Teach Us The result of twenty-five years exploring phragmipedium habitats.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Sandra Svoboda AOS Judge and AOS Past President	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Frank Cervera Biologist, well established in the Phrag community



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
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Filter

Let's get the Next Gen orchid growers involved!!!!

✿ Call for Entries: AOS Essay Contest *"Best Moments from My American Orchid Society Journey"*

The American Orchid Society is excited to announce an essay contest celebrating the stories that make our community so special. We want to hear about *your* most memorable AOS moments—and what being a member of this orchid-loving family has meant to you.

Whether it was discovering a rare bloom, making lasting friendships, or growing in your orchid knowledge, your journey matters. And we want to share your story with the world!

Who Can Participate? AOS members only. Two age divisions are open:

- **Youth Division:** Ages **14-18 years old**

Adult Division: 19-25 years old

Essay Guidelines

- Topic: *Best Moments from My AOS Journey and Why I Love Being an AOS Member*
- Length: Up to **500- 600 words**
- Language: Submit in **English** or **Spanish**

Format: Typed and submitted electronically, Times New Roman, double spaced, 12pt font.

Prize Each division winner will receive a **1-year Silver Membership in the American Orchid Society**, special recognition in an official AOS ORCHIDS publication.

Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** November 1st, 2025

Winners Announced: December 1st, 2025

Send your essay to: debb@aos.org





FALL PLANT SALE & ORCHID SHOW

Kanapaha Botanical Garden

4700 SW 58th Dr, Gainesville, FL 32608

OCTOBER 25, 2025 (9 AM - 5 PM)

Each October, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens holds an Open House & Fall Plant Sale, in conjunction with the Gainesville Orchid Society, inviting visitors to see the facility

ADMISSION FREE.

In addition to viewing the botanical gardens, over 50 booths will be set up selling a wide variety of plants. The **American Orchid Society will have their annual American Orchid Society's judged show** that will coincide with the Fall Plant Sale and will take place inside Kanapaha's entrance building. We strongly encourage guests to bring their own carts and wagons to transport their plants from the vendors to their cars.



Apopka International Fall Orchid Festival

October 31 - November 2, 2025

Vendors and Speakers from all over the world!

Free Admission and Parking

In Conjunction with the International Phalaenopsis Alliance Symposium

Location: Krull-Smith Nursery

2800 W Ponkan Rd., Apopka, FL 32712

www.krullsmith.com

The poster features a vibrant background of various orchids, including a large pink and white orchid in the center, a purple orchid in the upper right, and a blue and white orchid in the lower left. A blue bird is perched on a branch on the left, and a pink tiger is on the right. The text is in a bold, yellow, serif font. A circular logo for the Ridge Orchid Society of Florida is on the right side.

“ORCHID JUNGLE”

2025 ORCHID SHOW & SALE

SEPTEMBER 13TH & 14TH

10:00 - 4:00

- *Plant Vendors
- *Raffle Baskets
- *Orchid Supplies
- *Orchid Repotting
- *Orchid Displays

United Women's Club
1515 Williamsburg Square, Lakeland FL, 33803
\$5 Admission - Free Parking - Call for info (863)258-2201

Save the Date: September 13 & 14, 2025



May all your plant hunting excursions and auction winnings be as successful as this guy's!

Love this picture!

Membership Notes

by Debra May

Current Membership is 120.

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.