



<https://www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com>
NCOS0920@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/468296983653910>



The Keiki



August 2026

Volume 35

Issue 8

Meetings unless otherwise noted are at 12:00pm at the: Homosassa Lions Club, 3705 S Indiana Ave, Homosassa, FL 34448, on the FOURTH Saturday of the month. 11:00am to 12:00pm social hour and potluck. 12:00PM Meeting starts.

Next Meeting: August 22- Our Annual Auction! Orchids of every size, shape & color will be on the auction block. This is a great opportunity to purchase rare & unusual orchids at a discount price. **The Orchids are available for viewing at 11:00 and the auction starts promptly at 12:00. Free admission & parking.** This is our largest fundraiser for the year & everyone is welcome. Not only is this a fun event, but you will learn a lot about orchids. A list of the orchids available for sale will be on our website before the auction.

Contents

Page 1

Next Meeting/Event
President's Message

Page 2

Board Members
Speaker Schedule

Page 3

President msg cont.

Page 4 - 5

Native Orchids - Dr.
Craig Huegel

Page 6-8

July Show Table

Page 9

Raffle Information

Page 10

AOS Webinars

Page 11

Dues/membership
Editor Information
Sunshine Greetings
Name Tags

President's Message

Hi everyone!

The big news this month is our annual Auction on August 22, in lieu of a regular meeting. A lot of preparation and planning goes into making our big fund raiser for the year successful. As Gertie shared with you at the meeting, this year it is especially important that everyone pitch in to make it a success.

We've made it so easy to be able to participate and enjoy the fun. You can offer to work the day of the auction or you can bring a dish for the pot lunch and/or come to buy orchids. See what the auction orchids look like and learn about them as our auctioneer Brett Ullery talks about what makes them unique.

This is a once-a-year opportunity to find orchids that are not available in the trade anymore and can only be found from orchid growers who've had these plants for years and are finally dividing and giving you the chance to buy them.

We'll also have orchids from professional growers. Payton Millican, our 2nd VP and our vendor contact for the auction, has a different approach to choosing plants and had great ideas on looking for orchids in completely unexpected places. I think you'll be quite pleased with what he found.

Regina Eppels is my co-chair for the auction this year; please see her for the sign-up sheets and look for her calls, texts and emails as she and I reach out to you for your help.

As I sit at the table to start this letter, a nice, soaking rain is coming down with just enough thunder to make it relaxing. My orchids, grass, and all my plants in their garden beds are loving it as much as I am. There's plenty of work they all could use but not today. The summer rains were late coming to my house but having them at last gives me a little break from watering my orchids. I hope you're also getting the summer rains too.

Continued on Page 3

EXECUTIVE BOARD**OFFICERS**

<u>President</u>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Past President</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Payton Millican
<u>Treasurer</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Sheri Stipp
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Sheri Stipp
<u>Trustees</u>	Jeff Rundell Jeanne Montgomery

EXECUTIVE BOARD**COMMITTEES**

<u>Auction Chair</u>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Show Chair</u>	Melana & Jim Davison
<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>E-mail Coordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Nancy Huff
<u>Membership</u>	Kay Stephenson & Allyson Utter
<u>Merchandise</u>	Carol Kirk
<u>New Members & Visitors</u>	Kathy and Lacy Shawver
<u>Publicity</u>	Sacha Fenimore
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Sunshine Greetings</u>	Jeanne Montgomery
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>Activities & Trips</u>	Judy Armstrong & Kathleen East
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
(Website set up by Ken Dunn)	
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2026

Updated as of 8/1/2026

September 12– Keith & Dina Emig ‘Winterizing Your Orchids’ Keith is a very entertaining speaker and this is the perfect time to start getting ready for the cold weather ahead before the temps drop. He’ll talk to us about which orchids need to be kept drier so they’ll bloom in the spring. Which orchids need shelter at which temperature and which orchids actually bloom better if they get cold. He’ll answer these questions and more in this talk. Keith & Dina will be bringing plant to sell to us.

October 17- Bill Nunez (the Rhizome Cowboy) ‘Orchid Tips & Tricks from an old Geezer’. Bill is always a welcome speaker at NCOS. There's no better way to learn than when you're laughing. He's been growing orchids for 50 years and will share what he has learned that works and doesn't work with us. Join us for a fun and informative talk.

November 14 - Jim & Melana Davison from Jim-N-I Orchids will be talking to us about ‘Growing & Blooming Australian Dendrobiums’. This is a beautiful group of Dendrobiums that take special growing conditions to bloom. Jim & Melana who are members of the Nature Coast Society, will share the secrets to the success of this unique group of orchids. Between the 2 of them they have over 60 years of growing experience. They’re both AOS judges and grow all genera of orchids but specialize in Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis, Bulbs & Catasetums. They will be bringing plants to sell.

December 12 - Holiday Gathering

President's Message – continued from Page 1

While you enjoy those rains, it's a good idea to treat for funguses before they permanently spot the leaves. Dr. Motes recommends use Leary's 3336 or Thiomil in combination with either Manzate or Dithane for all the leaf spotting funguses. Spray again in 2 weeks and then every 6-8 weeks apart. I also add a light squirt of Dawn or Ivory to act as a spreader and help control mites. If you see the soft rots, I cut the infected part away and treat with Banrot, but you could also use Aliette and Subdue 2E. The leaf spotting fungus are cosmetic, but the soft rots move quickly, and you will lose your orchid if not removed ASAP. Thrips are going crazy, so keep an eye out for them and treat before they take over, like the invaders they are.

If you weren't able to make it to the June meeting, we had the largest crowd for a meeting we've ever had - 80 people! Although there's loads of parking, it was a little bit tight in the meeting room so we have already reserved the larger room for the rest of the year so there'll be room to grow.

You also missed a very good speaker who taught us about growing Cymbidiums. Harry McElroy and his wife Celia joined us from St Augustine, our own Matt and Marita graciously hosted them the night before.

In September, we welcome Keith and Dina Emig back. They are always so much fun and make learning easy. Keith will be teaching us what to do to prepare our orchids for the coming winter months, and how to keep them from cold damage. I know most of us had cold damage this year, and many more lost all, or most of their collections.

Now is the time to start making preparations to prevent that from happening again. I hope you will join us on September 12th; come at 11:00 to meet everyone, chat, eat, and listen & learn from the Emigs.

Part of our amazing Membership crew, Kay Stephenson and Alyson Utter have put together 2 excellent sheets of information that are available for you. They have the monthly meeting agenda available so you know what to expect when you come to the meetings, what makes NCOS different, and why it's such a great society to be part of. There are also invaluable links to help grow your orchids in your environment. We are all here to learn and share with each other and they just made that a lot easier.

See you then,
Susan Kimmel
sk_orchid@yahoo.com



Note: Boxes are needed at the Auction for buyers to take their plants home in. If you can, bring a maximum of 5 boxes to the Auction. Not more than that, please.

A Look at Native and Naturalized Orchids of the Sunshine State

Dr. Craig Huegel



Photo: Nancy Huff

Did you know there are over 28,000 species of orchids? That Hawaii has only 3 species of native orchids, and Canada has 76 species, and Alaska has 37 native orchids? How about that the word “orchid” is taken from the Greek, meaning “testicles”? These, and many other surprising and interesting facts about orchids were shared by Dr. Huegel in his talk at our July meeting. Hundreds of orchids found in Florida, and both native and naturalized orchids were discussed with an engaging sense of humor and a deep factual knowledge of the plants.

Craig moved to the Tampa Bay area in 1987 to co-found the Urban Wildlife Cooperative Extension program at the University of Florida. He also spent 12 years at the Brooker Creek and Weedon Island Preserves. He has also grown plants since his early childhood, and has a small native wildflower nursery called Hawthorn Hill. He has more than 200 orchids, and lots of knowledge about them.

He has traveled the entire state exploring native and naturalized orchids growing in the wilds. Orchid seed, being the tiny dust size that it is, allows it to travel via the winds from far away places such as the Caribbean Islands to find new homes and naturalize here in Florida. The southern counties of our state have many native and naturalized orchids. They are found in the swampy areas, some as epiphytes, others as ground orchids.

Ground orchids are easily missed, as their bloom time is short, they are growing in an area with a lot of other grasses and plants, and may be in areas that get mowed, such as roadsides. Most are so diminutive in size, they are very hard to spot. However, there are many species in Florida, if you know where and when to look for them.

Most are threatened to the extremely rapid habitat loss occurring in Florida. There is no real protection for plants on private property, resulting in large tracts of land being “cleared” for development, erasing habitats within those tracts. Theft from their habitat is also another reason they are endangered, as poachers gather them from the wild to sell.

A wonderful place to see an amazing variety of plants such as orchids, bromeliads, ferns, etc., in their glory is at Fakahatchee State Preserve, the largest State Park in Florida, and home to plant and animal species found nowhere else in the Continental US. It’s about a 4-hour ride from the Spring Hill area, near the Big Cypress area. The Club may be planning a field trip to the area, stay tuned.



Here's a list of Dr. Huegel's books in order of publication:

- **Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife**
This book emphasizes the importance of native plants in creating wildlife-friendly landscapes.
- **Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes**
A guide to selecting and using native plants that thrive in shaded areas.
- **The Nature of Plants: An Introduction to How Plants Work**
This book provides insights into plant biology and ecology, making it accessible for both students and enthusiasts.
- **Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants: 200 Readily Available Species for Homeowners and Professionals**
A practical guide for selecting native plants suitable for various landscapes in Florida.
- **The Florida Native Plant Society's Guide to Native Plants of Florida**
Co-authored, this guide serves as a comprehensive resource for identifying and using native plants in Florida landscapes.

Information on Dr. Huegel's Hawthorn Hill Nursery:

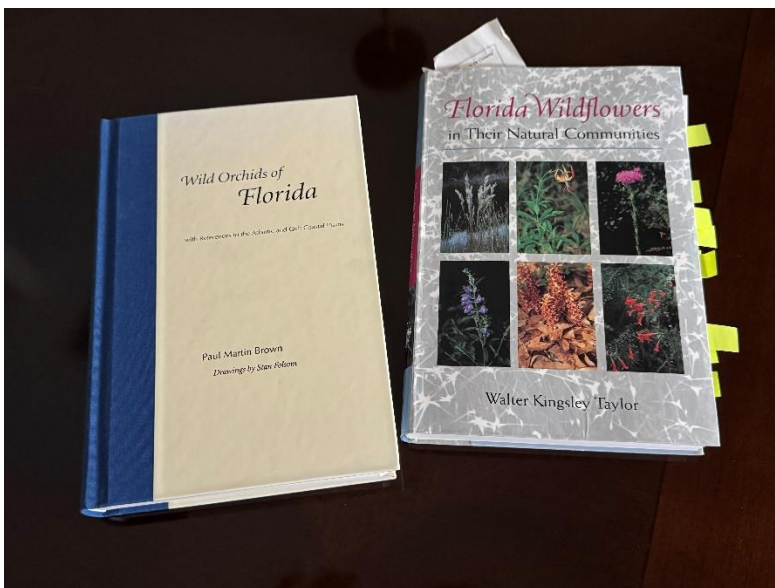
Hawthorn Hill is not a retail plant nursery, but twice a year, I open my yard to public tours and make my extra plants available to the public. If you are interested in what I am currently growing, please email me for my current list at huegelc55@aol.com or give me a call at (727) 422-6583.

Hawthorn Hill Wildflowers, Native Florida wildflowers

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/259523437517212/>

<https://hawthornhillwildflowers.blogspot.com/>

Some additional books:



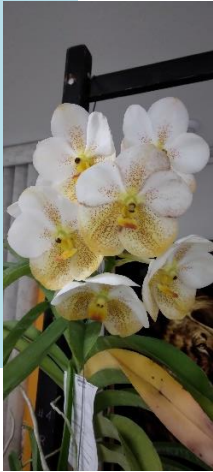
Some Great Books to look for - Photo: Nancy Huff

July's Show Table

1	NCOS Show Table 7/25/2026	
2	Name	Grower
3	Rhy. coelestis (blue)	Matt Riesz
4	Prra. Bangkok Sunset	Matt Riesz
5	V. Baby Angel (Lou Sneary x falcata)	Pam Crisman
6	Phal. Pulcherrima h.v. champornensis	Pam Crisman
7	Aerdv. Suwannaphum Willow Lantern (V. tessellata x Aerdv. Suwannaphum Sunshine)	Herb May
8	Pcv. Key Lime Stars	Herb May
9	Darwinara Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AD/AOS	Bella Roberts
10	Pda. Tamiami Blues 'Krisy' AM/CCM/AOS	Matt Riesz
11	V. Somsri Gold (V. Nopporn Gold x V. Rasri Gold)	Matt Riesz
12	Lc. Spring Imp 'Port Royal Soundaoki'	Susan Kimmel
13	B. appendiculata	Susan Kimmel
14	Epi. conopseum var. mexicana	Gertie Messenger
15	B. flagellaris	Payton Millican
16	Schoenorchis fragrans	Payton Millican
17	Seidenfadenia mitrata	Payton Millican
18	Pcv. Key Lime Profusion	Payton Millican
19	Encyclia Hunty's Home Run	Bella Roberts
20	Phal. Purple Martin x Phal. violacea	Susan Kimmel
21	Phal. Purple Martin	Matt Riesz
22	C. leopoldii x C. aclandiae	Randy Dugan
23	C. luedemanniana rubra (calimani x self)	Randy Dugan
24	C. Cruella	Bella Roberts
25	B. Ridiculous	Kristine Stewart
26	Onc. Tariflor Lady	Kristine Stewart
27	Ctna. Why Not	Kristine Stewart
28	Encyclia Orchid Jungle 'Bill's Weed' AM/AOS	Regina & Steve Epple

July Show Table

Photos: Bryon Provencher



V. Somsri Gold
(V. Nopporn Gold x V. Rasri Gold)



Pda. Tamiami Blues
'Krisy' AM/CCM/AOS



Aerdv. Suwannaphum Willow Lantern
(V. tessellata x Aerdv. Suwannaphum Sunshine)



Darwinara Charm 'Blue Star' HCC/AD/AOS



Pcv. Key Lime Stars



Prra. Bangkok Sunset



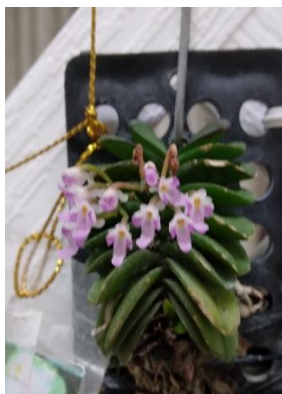
Rhy. coelestis (blue)



B. appendiculata



B. flagellaris



Schoenorchis fragrans



Seidenfadenia mitrata

July Show Table

Photos: Bryon Provencher



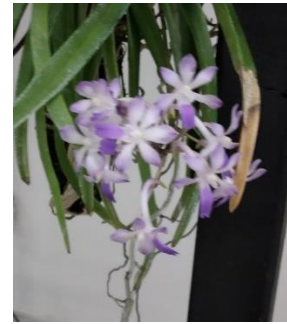
Pcv. Key Lime Profusion



Lc. Spring Imp 'Port Royal Soundaoki'



Phal. Purple Martin



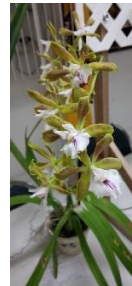
V. Baby Angel (Lou Sneary x falcata)



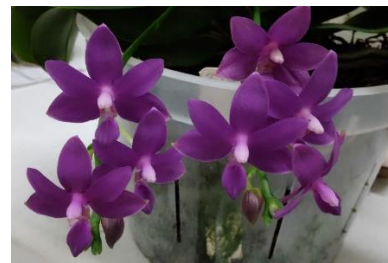
Phal. Pulcherrima h.v. champornensis



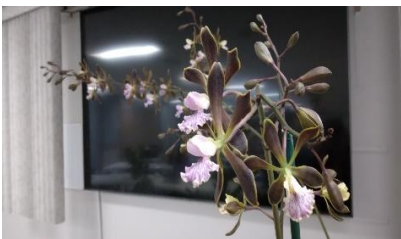
Epi. conopseum var. mexicana



Encyclia Hunty's Home Run



Phal. Purple Martin x Phal. violacea



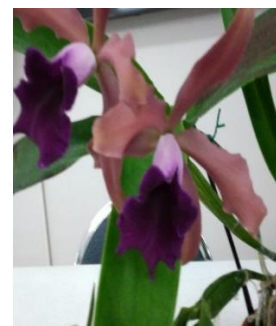
Encyclia Orchid Jungle 'Bill's Weed' AM/AOS



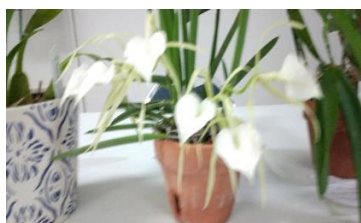
C. leopoldii x C. aclandiae



C. luedemanniana rubra (calimani x self)



C. Cruella



B. Ridiculous



Onc. Tariflor Lady



Ctna. Why Not

Facebook Picture Raffle Information

Each month there will be a contest to get a free orchid at each meeting.

Here's how it works:

1. Take a picture of yourself holding one of your orchids. YOU must be in the picture with the orchid.
2. Send the picture to Barbara Brown at ranbar03@verizon.net including your name & the name of the orchid.
3. Barbara will make a raffle ticket for your entry, and also put your picture on our Facebook group page.
4. We will draw from the raffle tickets at the next meeting to see who wins the raffle orchid.

That's it! There is no limit to the number of pictures of you with an orchid. Each one will entitle you to another raffle ticket. Watch our Facebook page for the posts, and feel free to put up your own posts of orchid pictures (we all love to see them!!)

Member's Raffle Information

To be entered into the member raffle at each meeting, simply sign-in on the members attendance sheet at each meeting.



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	July 09, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	SUMMER BREAK Review the Full Index of Recorded Webinars on the AOS Website	In Search Of Webinar Presenters
Topic	FREE Live Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by July 07	Filter by Members Only or All Viewers Select From Title - Choose Culture, Virtual Events, Judging, Pests and Diseases, Greenhouse Chats and More. Click Register or Watch Now.	Future Webinars You are invited to share your orchid knowledge with an enthusiastic audience of thousands. We can show you how. Contact webinar organizer for details. greenhousechat@aos.org
Presenter	Ron McHatten AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	The Experts Orchid Growers, Orchid Judges, Biologists, Scientists and More. Offering Culture Tips and Education.	Expert Growers, Hobby Growers, AOS Judges, Scientists, Biologists and YOU!



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
Editor

Classified

For members with plants or other orchid related items to sell, place your notice here. Send info to the editor for placement in this section. Please include Item, price, size, your contact information, other helpful information.

—

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 **Jeanne Montgomery** curlyhs@gmail.com

Member Name Tags

If you would like one of the wonderful name tags available to members, please contact 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.
