



<https://www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com>
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The Keiki



July 2026

Volume 35

Issue 7

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: July 25 - Dr. Craig Huegel the USF Botanical Garden Director will be talking to us about Florida's Native Orchids. Dr. Craig Hegel has 34 years of experience with native plants, education & gardening. He is a Lead Curator for the USF Botanical Garden. In addition, he has an online blog on native Florida wildflowers & has published several books. Members can bring orchids to sell.

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President's Message

Hi everyone!

Gee, the time to compose my 1st President's message got here so quickly. As I sit down to compose it, I think about all the Presidents of the society before me. In the almost 5 years since I've been part of the NCOS, it has evolved so much and become so much bigger. I'm really proud of that and excited about the potential it offers us. My goals are to 1) Continue to grow the Society and 2) Support the American Orchid Society, orchid conservation, and preservation of orchid habitats; both are lofty goals so let me explain my plan. To continue to grow the society, we will continue to offer social outings, find more knowledgeable and entertaining speakers for our meetings. We will ask existing members to mentor new members. We'll follow-up w/ all our visitors and involve the whole club in welcoming both visitors and new members. We'll continue to support the Spring Hill Botanical Gardens. To support the AOS, and to help save orchid habitat we'll need to be very responsible w/ our available funds which means I'll continue to be very tight with what money the club makes and only spend if that purchase supports the continuation or function of the society. I have a great bunch of people who will help me meet both of these goals and I'll work closely with them and all of you to keep you posted on what we make and spend for the society. To make this happen, I'll need everyone's help. The society has grown much too large for 1 person to do everything themselves now. We all have our strengths and can help in different ways; that's the beauty of having a larger society. There's a way everyone can help and be involved and make this society their own. The biggest thing is...LETS HAVE FUN!

It's exciting and appropriate that for a new beginning we have a new meeting place. We begin by voting in new officers in our new meeting place at the Homosassa Lion's Club on S. Indiana Ave. This venue is absolutely perfect for our needs; I can't wait to show it to you guys! I want to thank everyone who gave me leads for a new meeting place. Following up on all of the leads, what I found was they were either too small or much too expensive. The Lions Club is \$30/hr which is affordable for us and has 2 rooms we can rent if we need more space at \$10 more per hr if needed but that's still less than the church. I think you'll find this a much more comfortable space with nice management & lots of parking. Several of us are driving up so if you're interested in carpooling, please let Matt or me know. Our emails are:

sk_orchid@yahoo.com, mrfishnj@gmail.com

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>	Judy Armstrong
<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 7/1/2026

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 & 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.

September 12- Phillip & Liz Hamilton of Bredren Orchids specialize in growing Broughtonia Species & high-quality novelty Phalaenopsis. Their's is a family owned & operated nursery in central Florida & have been in operation since 2012. They're coming to teach us how to grow & flower the Novelty Phalaenopsis. These are different than what you find at your local store. These Phals are breed with long inflorescence, have large flowers & are fragrant. Phillip & Liz will be bringing plants to sell but are offering a 10% discount if you pre-order your orchids online 1 month prior to the meeting.

October 24- Keith & Dina Emig 'Winterizing Your Orchids' Keith is a very entertaining speaker & 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 & which orchids actually bloom better if they get cold. He'll answer these questions & more in this talk. Keith & Dina will be bringing plant to sell to us.

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 & grow all genera of orchids but specialize in Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis, Bulbs & Catasetums. They will be bringing plants to sell.

December 12 - Holiday Dinner

President's Message – continued from Page 1

We have some terrific speakers lined up for you to enjoy the rest of the year while hanging out with some wonderful people for a couple of hours and learn more about how to grow your orchids, and maybe try growing different kinds of orchids. Our next speaker is on July 25th: Dr. Craig Hegel who has 34 yrs of experience w/ native plants education and gardening. He is the head curator for the USF Botanical Gardens and will teach us about our Native Orchids. He will NOT be bringing plants to sell so our members are welcome to sell plants at this meeting.

Our big fund raiser of the year is our Auction on 8-22 so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Regina & Steve Eppels, my co-chairs and I are looking for volunteers to help organize and run it the day of. The money we made at the show covered our expenses but not much more, so it is really important that our auction is very successful. My goal is lofty for the auction because the auction profit is how we pay for our speakers, for the meeting place, the insurance we're required to have, the raffle plants, our Holiday party and all the miscellaneous things the club needs to function. It takes money to run any organization so please sign up at the meeting to help at the auction. Come and buy an orchid or 2 or 3, after all it's for a good cause- you! Also, any plant you donate to the auction will help with the bottom line, so if you are repotting and can divide a plant, please think of the club. **Email Matt with the name of the orchid(s) you'll be donating, please include a picture if you have it, so he can add it to the list we post to give orchid growers a reason to come to our auction. You don't have to wait for your list to be complete to send the info to Matt. The more time he has to put things together the better!**

Culture Notes: The Summer Solstice has come and gone now so you should be about finished up, or close to done with your repotting. If you feel you still must repot, then consider slip potting where you just drop the undisturbed root ball into a larger pot with more media, and then plan to repot next spring. Keep an eye on your bi-folates though, as they seem to get new root tips at the most unexpected time and if you see those, it's ok to repot that orchid. As the days are getting shorter, any cuts you make to repot your orchids will leave them more susceptible to fungus; really be mindful of your sterile technique. I dust all cuts with Banrot. Then let the orchid sit so the cut can close up and seal over with the Banrot (overnight, if you can) then pot it up with your wet media, but don't water for 2 weeks. This technique is what I use. All this information and more is available at www.staugorchidsociety.org

Pests go crazy this time of year so keep up with your prevention program, whatever that means for you. Please do be mindful of how you're spraying if you're using pesticides and fungicides. These are chemicals, so protect yourselves and your pets.

I look forward to seeing at our next meeting and bring along a friend!

Susan Kimmel
sk_orchid@yahoo.com



In June, members were treated to yet another great home tour of other members' orchid gardens for an opportunity to see how others grow their orchids. Here is the first of two stops.

Write-up and photos: Carolyn Shearer

Bob and Kathy East's home

We toured the home. Kathy has a professional quilting room set up inside the house and has quilts on display. She gives quilts to foster children, and Habitat for Humanity first time homeowners. Being a former librarian, all is well organized.

Bob has turned bowls from raw wood, and has a wood working shop in the garage. He made an inlaid wood table which is displayed in one of the bedrooms. Bob also has been busy with 3D printing, and made parts he needed and was unable to find. Recently he delighted a Tennessean by selling his antique vehicle for their enjoyment.

Members were treated to pinwheel sandwiches, fresh fruit on a stick, halo tangerines and chocolate chip cookies.

We were delighted to see Rain Lillies pink blossoms surrounding the home.

On the lanai, the East's had special orchid screening installed to shade the orchids. Irrigation mists the plants daily. A metal bar holds plants. Phalaenopsis are on a different rack and are hand watered.

Bob demonstrated the heat lamp which is in a clay pot for winter temperatures.







Here is the Second Stop on the Tour

Write-up and photos: Carolyn Shearer

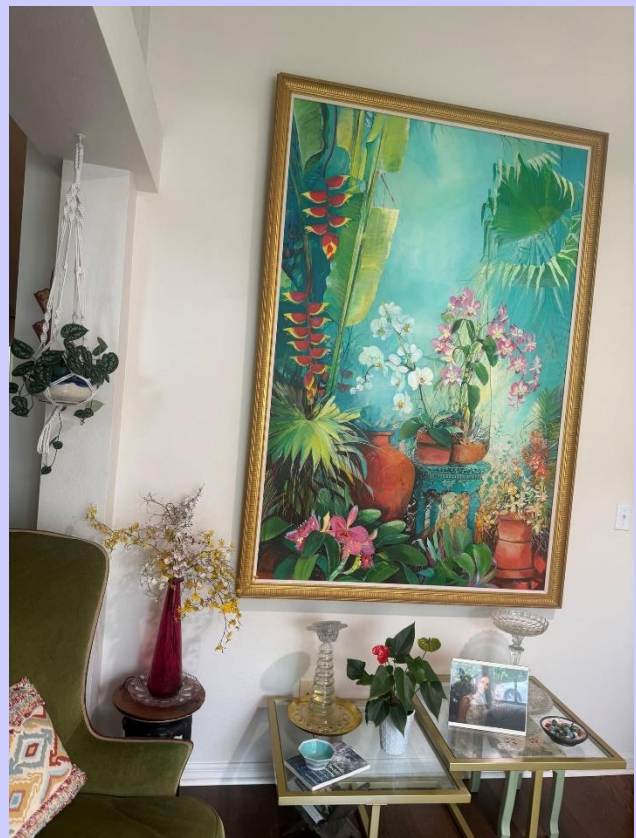
Rachel Herter's home 6/20/2026

NCOS members were treated to homemade chocolate chip cookies from Sandy Rundell's kitchen and brownies by another member, a fruit tray, lemonade and ice tea were served at Rachael's home.

We viewed fabulous artworks by Rachael. Some orchid plants have a home of being grown in water. Rachael said she, David and, Bella (their pup) bought their home due to the large oak trees in their back yard. As soon as she saw the trees, she knew this was the home for her family's happiness.

The trees have an oxen yolk that supports hanging orchids. The shade hosts a multitude of bromeliads, orchids and other flora. Some boulders were brought over with a fork lift to give a natural setting to the garden. Planted in tree stumps, you'll find there are orchids. Look around and Rachael used glass vases to glue together for interesting vases.

Carolyn







Cymbidiums – Selection for Hot or Warm Climates

Harry McElroy - the Cymbidium Man



At June's meeting, Harry explained all about growing Cymbidiums in Florida. These beautiful orchids are a long time favorite of Harry's, and once he arrived in Florida in 1991, he set about to prove there were varieties that could indeed grow in Florida's climate.

Cymbidiums have been in cultivation for thousands of years, originally available only to royalty. There are now many cultivars to choose from for anyone.

The number one rule for selecting your Cymbidium is choosing one that will grow here. That is absolutely essential, or you will be very disappointed when it does not grow.

Cymbidiums are not difficult to grow. They like 60-70% sun, not fully direct, filtered is better. Don't let them dry out completely, nor stay water logged, either. Fertilize with summer and winter applications. Harry's growing media includes 1 part granite chips, 1 part perlite, and 2 parts cypress mulch. This is a very light, airy, well-draining mix. Because it drains so well, you may need to water more when the weather is dry, but it protects against root rot. Use deep, well draining pots.

Cymbidiums like to be outdoors as long as it is not going below 35 degrees, so do let them enjoy the fresh air.

Watch for insects. Harry uses Southern Ag Garden Friendly fungicide, yes, fungicide, as it works well on bugs, and is very safe.

If your garden is affected by bush snails, use caffeine to eradicate them. These snails absolutely hate caffeine, and pouring (cooled down of course) caffeinated coffee onto the plant will send them packing. Energy drinks are often loaded with caffeine are good for this purpose as well. Don't use coffee grounds. Diatomaceous earth sprinkled on the pot works well for snails as it will cut their tender bellies. Lava rock will have the same affect.

When repotting, if the pot is full of roots, it's time. Take the plant out of the pot and leave it for 2 weeks to dry very thoroughly. Cut the bottom half of the root ball off, and then divide the plant into as many sections as you wish.

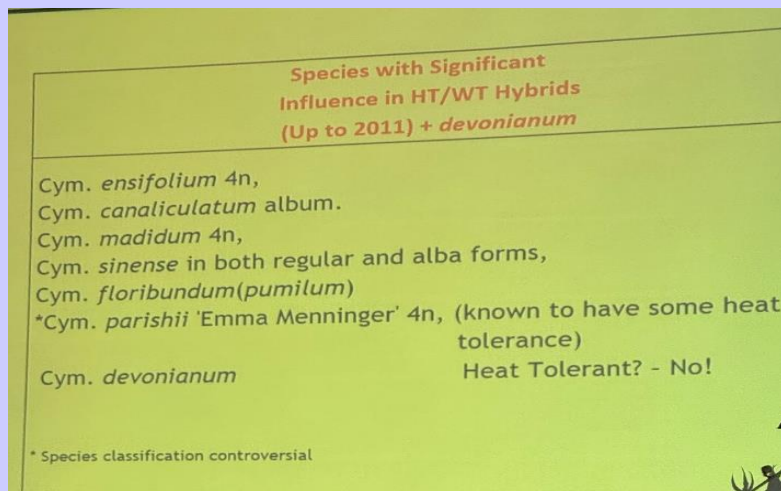
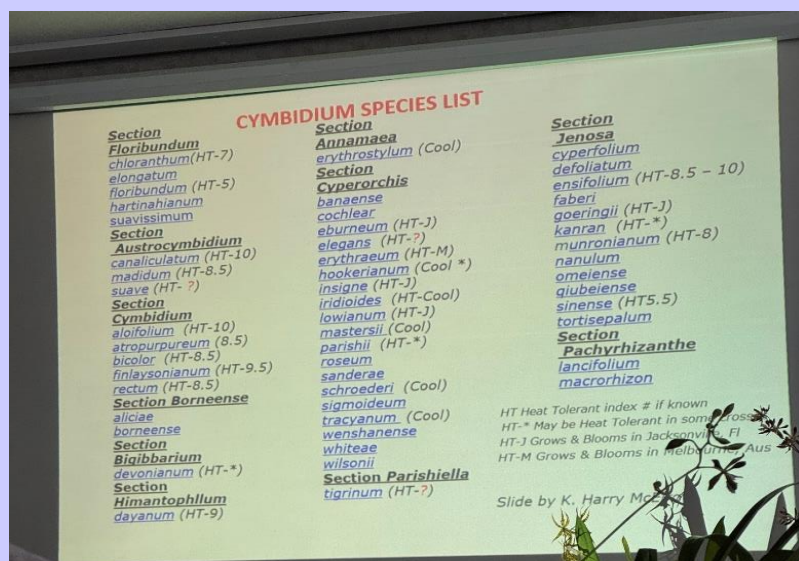
Cymbidium virus – these plants are very prone to it, so be aware of that.



June's meeting

Photos: Carolyn Shearer

Some slides from Harry's Cymbidium talk. Photos by Nancy Huff



Cymbidium Species	Heat Tolerance Index
Cymbidium ensifolium subsp. Haematodes	10
Cymbidium canaliculatum	10
Cymbidium aloifolium	10
Cymbidium finlaysonianum	9.5
Cymbidium dayanum	9.5
Cymbidium ensifolium subsp. Ensifolium	8.5
Cymbidium madidum	8.5
Cymbidium bicolor	8.5
Cymbidium rectum	8.5
Cymbidium atropurpureum	8.5
Cymbidium munronianum	8.0
Cymbidium cloranthum	7.0
Cymbidium sinense	5.5
Cymbidium floribundum (pumilum)	5.0



Photos: Bryon Provencher

June's raffle winners!

Left: Randy Duggan – winner of the Facebook raffle.

Right: Karen Taccard winner of the member's raffle.

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.

	A	B
1	NCOS Show Table 6/27/2026	
2	Name	Grower
3	Prra. Tony Tan Keng Yam 'Orange'	Bob East
4	Den. Green Lantern	Randy Dugan
5	C. Unknown Hybrid (bifoliate)	Nancy Huff
6	Ctsm. Dreamboat	Jim & Melana Davison
7	Ctsm Greg Wood	Jim & Melana Davison
8	E. RioClarensense	Doris Keyser
9	E. Hunty's Home Run	Bella Roberts
10	Den. Lowana Nioka	Bella Roberts
11	Odbrs. Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara'	Alyson Utter
12	Bc. Little Mermaid 'Janet'	Bella Roberts
13	Paph. Temptation	Jeff Rundell
14	Onc. Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'	Kristine Stewart
15	Den. wassellii	Matt Riesz
16	Cattcycilia Leaf Hopper	Payton Millican
17	B. nodosa	Payton Millican
18	Schomburgkia Pink Passion	Payton Millican
19	Rlc. Mary Roberts (Rlc. Suncoast Tribute x Rlc. Robert Ferguson)	Charles Anderson
20	E. Cindy x E. dickinsonianum	Matt Riesz
21	E. rousseauae	Matt Riesz
22	Onc. Pacific Passage	Matt Riesz
23	Bulb. zamboangense	Matt Riesz
24	Renanthera philippinensis x Rhynchostylis coerulea	Matt Riesz

June Show Table

Photos: Bryon Provencher



Den. Green Lantern



Vanda falcata



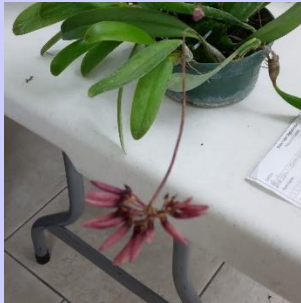
Epidendrum magnoliae



Renanthera philippinensis x Rhynchostylis coerulea



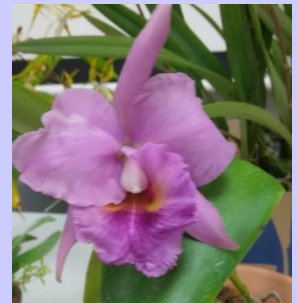
E. rousseauae



Bulb. Zamboangense



Onc. Pacific Passage



Rlc. Mary Roberts(Rlc. Suncoast Tribute xRlc.Robert Ferguson)



E. Cindy x E.
dickinsonianum



Schomburgkia Pink Passion



B. nodosa



Cattcylcia Leaf Hopper

June Show Table

Photos: Bryon Provencher



Den. Wassellii



Paph. Temptation



Den. Lowana Nioka



Odbrs. Kenneth Bivin 'Santa Barbara'



Bc. Little Mermaid 'Janet'



E. Hunty's Home Run



C. Raingreen's carosel



Ctsm. Black Jade

July's Field Trip

Hit the road with fellow orchid lovers for some seriously cool blooms to check out and add to your collection! Lunch is Included.

Join us for a fun day visiting two orchid growers in St Petersburg on July 18, 2026

We begin at 9am at Art Stone: 3611 Tyrone Blvd, St Petersburg, FL

So, get up early and hit the road! <https://artstoneco.com/>

Owners Michael & Paula Polen have a unique and extensive variety of orchids and potting supplies, as well as succulents, cacti and ferns and wait, there's more... fountains and statuary. Michael has been growing orchids for 40 years. He is a lifetime member and Past President of the Fl. West Coast Orchid Society.

**Second Stop – (Between 10:30 & 11am) <https://www.facebook.com/AccentOrchids/>
Accent Orchids: 2835 38th Avenue North, St Petersburg.**

Owners Bret & Ruth Ullery have a major love of orchids and specialize in dendrobiums. They were a vendor at our club's spring sale and Bret will be the Auctioneer at our upcoming Auction in August. **They will provide lunch for us.**

When we have a better idea of who is planning to go, we will help with coordinating carpools.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore stunning orchids and enjoy a memorable day with fellow enthusiasts. Mark your calendar and get ready for a fantastic botanical journey! Please sign up by July 10.

Also, watch for an invitation from Eventbrite-a new service we are trying out for our events. You can sign up there too.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/nature-coast-orchid-society-51821779843>



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 McHatton 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
Filter

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.

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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 **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.
