



Volume 35
Issue 3
March 2026

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THE KEIKI



Next Meeting:

Meetings are held at: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609 on the **FOURTH** Saturday of the month, unless otherwise noted.
12:00PM Meeting starts — 11:00am to 12:00pm social hour

Annual Orchid Show March 21-22- Same location as our regular meeting. No regular meeting. Come to our Show!! Saturday and Sunday— 10am -4pm, judging on the 21st at 8:30am - The theme is: 'Orchid Artistry' where beautiful orchids will be enhanced by beautiful orchid related art-work. There will be plenty of plants, and orchid supplies for all your needs. See you there!

More information in the President's Message below.

President's Message



Hi everyone,

It looks like we might be out of the freezes – FINALLY! I've moved most of my orchids back outside, and I'm pleasantly surprised that despite several weeks of cold and dark conditions inside my lanai, many plants have developed buds and bloomed. They're very persistent, aren't they?

Our show is coming up this month, on March 21st and 22nd with setup on the 20th. I hope you're all thinking of which orchids might be good entries. My rule is: if it has a pretty flower that you like then probably others will like it too. So bring it to the show. NOW is the time to be working on prep for those plants, like Ryan showed us in the January meeting. Stake the inflorescences; clean up the leaves with a mixture of milk and water; make sure there are no bugs or disease. We have many classes of plants, so don't assume yours will not win a ribbon or other award: you might find yourself with the only plant in that class! Please bring your plants on Friday morning, March 20th, and bring a list of your plants with you. If it's at all possible, make up your list before the event and send it to me via email at mrfishnj@gmail.com. That will help us a lot when it comes time to register them into the judging database.

Even if you don't bring plants for us, the show is a terrific and fun event, with lots of opportunities to buy great plants from our vendors and ogle all the beautiful flowers. We'll also have an orchid supply vendor where you can buy everything you might need to care for your orchids. Fertilizer, pots, media, chemicals, tags, hangers, etc. So plan to come and join us even if you haven't volunteered for any of our support positions. THIS is where we find many of those unusual and beautiful orchids!

Now is also the time to start thinking about re-potting plants that need it. Now through May is the best time to do this for many of your orchids, so they have time to adjust to their new home during their prime growing season. We'll be having a re-potting session for our April meeting so you can come learn how to do it and repot or mount your orchids then.

That reminds me: OUR APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 4TH !! Yes, I know that's early but it's the only time we could get a meeting place. We'll be at Crew's Lake Park in Spring Hill – same place we have had our picnics in the past, but a different pavilion so look for more info on our website.

Did you enjoy the garden visits we did recently, to Susan Kimmel's and Sacha and Wes Fenimore's collections? I certainly enjoyed it. Great orchids, new ideas for how to grow them, fun people to enjoy them with, and FOOD. What could be better? There'll be more of those visits coming up so keep your eye on your email for further info.

Best wishes for happy orchids and I hope to see you all at the show!!

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>	Jacqueline Alston-Morse
<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 2026

Updated as of 3/1/2026

April 4—Please note the change in date from our usual meeting time - Orchid Repotting & Mounting Orchid Demos. This is a pot luck meeting at Crewes Lake Park. Please bring a dish to share. If you didn't sign up at the Feb meeting just email or call Annie Aierstock at (350)270-9191 or aiersja@hotmail.com (please note Annie is not a texter). Bring a plant or purchase a plant to repot as members WILL be able to sell plants at this meeting. Come & repot or just watch, learn, visit & eat. The fun starts at 11:00. We'll be in shelter #3 near the bathroom. Everyone is welcome to join us.

May 23- Mike Sands will talk about 'Organic & Inorganic Pest & Fungal Control. Mike owns Tangled Roots Nursery. This is a topic we've all had questions about and Mike will be able to give us some guidance.

June 27- Harry McElroy - 'Mr. Cymbidium Man' will come talk to us about growing & blooming warm growing Cymbidiums. Harry has been growing orchids since 1979. He started growing in Ca. and now lives here in Jacksonville.

July 25- Dr. Craig Huegel the USF Botanical Garden Director will be talking to us about Florida's Native Orchids.

August 22- Our Annual Auction

September 12- Keith & Dina Emig 'Winterizing Your Orchids'

October 24- TBD

November 14- Jim & Melana Davison from Jim-N-I Orchids

December 12- Holiday Dinner

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>	Kay Stephenson Allyson Utter
<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>	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

Growing Seedlings from Flask to Bloom

Bill Nunez



Bill Nunez Photo: Nancy Huff

At February's meeting, members were enlightened about raising orchids from flasks by the Rhizome Cowboy, Bill Nunez. His light, humorous, and entertaining talk introduced members to how to flask their own orchids.

Bill began by describing the many reasons you may want to grow orchids from seed. The challenge, fun, and satisfaction of raising orchid plants from seed to flower is certainly one reason. The fact that each new plant is completely unique, the only plant with that specific DNA, and you will be first to see it. Plus, these are the plants that get the awards. Clones do not get awards.

You will want to start your seedling adventure by pollinating flowers. The 'date night' method is one option. Put the 2 plants you want to cross together, and turn out the lights. If no seed pods result, you may need to help things along.

The resulting pods need to be harvested while still green and sterile. The pod should be still be mostly green, with segment seams starting to turn yellow. Once they split open, the pod is considered contaminated. If even one fungal spore touches the pod, it will destroy the whole pod contents. Place the green pod into sterile agar solution, which is rich in nutrients into a flask. In twelve to eighteen months you will have tiny baby orchid plants. Of course, be sure to provide tags with identifying information on the parentage, mother plant's name first.

When the baby orchids are ready to meet the world, wrap the flask in a towel, and smash with a hammer carefully. The baby plants can go into a community pot all together, or be separated into individual cell containers. To use the community pot method, use a shallow container, there are plenty of recyclable food containers that will work just fine for this. Fill half full with media that is appropriate size and type for the orchid you are planting, and place the 'puck' of baby plants right on the top of this media. No need to separate the plants. Fill in gaps around the puck with additional media. Water it, tag it, and bag it in a Ziplock bag with the corners cut for ventilation. This method provides minimal root disturbance to the baby plants.

If the young plants are large enough to plant separately into individual cells, you may do that. Start small, with 2" pots, going up yearly to 4", and then 6" size pots. A great mix for most orchids may have Orchidata— (Precision is the smallest, Classic is larger), New Zealand tree fern, small charcoal, #3 sponge rock, Kiwi bark, and high grade sphagnum moss.

Remember, baby orchids are like any baby. They need more attention, eat more often, but less at a time, and are more attractive to predators. Watch for bugs. Water gently. You will know plants have established once you see roots, and new growth.

Bill also described with demonstrations on actual flowers how to identify and pollinate the flowers yourself if 'date night' doesn't work. Flasking can be very rewarding, and you may have new award winning crosses to show for all your work and fun.



Above: Two of the slides from Bill's presentation showing his information on fungicides and bactericides, and also the reproductive parts of an orchid flower. Photos: Nancy Huff

A possible source of orchid flasks with orchids already in them as recommended by a couple of Club members. Check their website to see available options. <https://laorchid.com/collections/flasks>



Dr. Charles Thomas received a lifetime membership award for all the donations, help, and many ways he has assisted the Club over the years.

This month he brought in a table of plants for a surprise silent auction, where excited winners received some amazing and large plants.

Photo: Barbara Estok



Silent auction plants provided by Dr. Charles Thomas.

Photo: Bryon Provencher

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. Post your picture to our Club's Facebook page, including your name & the name of the orchid.
3. Each entry will receive a raffle ticket.
4. There will be a 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!!)

Rachael Herter (left) was this month's winner of the attending member raffle, and Cheryl Crilly (right) was the winner of the Facebook raffle.

Photos: Bryon Provencher



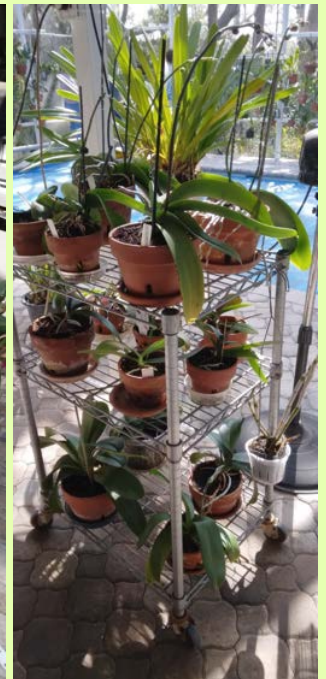
The First Member's Orchid Garden Tour of 2026

Many thanks to Sue Kimmel for her efforts in arranging the first member's orchid garden tour. The day was an absolute pleasure with great company, food, weather, and of course beautiful orchids! Both Susan, and Sacha and her husband Wes were gracious hosts, providing food, and answering the many questions that were asked by eager members. We all really needed this tour after all the cold weather, and having to look out at our browned landscapes. There is nothing quite like seeing how others raise their orchids, solve problems, and deal with the weather, than a good garden tour. Many thanks to Susan, Sacha, and Wes.

Here are a few pictures from Susan's garden:



Photo below: Nancy Huff



Photos: Bryon Provencher except where noted



Views of Sacha and Wes' Garden:

Photos: Bryon Provencher except where noted

Photo below: Nancy Huff



NCOS Show Table 2/21/2026

1	NCOS Show Table 2/21/2026	
2	Name	Grower
3	Den. Fancy Angel 'Lychee'	Rachel Herter
4	Den. farmeri - pink	Rachel Herter
5	Epi. Wedding Valley 'Yubana'	Rachel Herter
6	Laelia lundii h.f. coerulea	Matt Riesz
7	Rhy. gigantea - red	Matt Riesz
8	Den. kingianum	Susan Kimmel
9	Pot. Jessie Sabo 'Paradise'	Matt Riesz
10	Pot. Hawaiian Prominence	Susan Kimmel
11	Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'	Susan Kimmel
12	Paph. Macabre Drama	Marta Menendez
13	Pot. Hsinying Pink Doll	Matt Riesz
14	Zootrophion alvaroi	Vaden Edmondson
15	Prosthechea cochleata	Vaden Edmondson
16	C. aurantiaca 'Mishima Spots'	Randy Dugan
17	Cym. Joseph Schmidt 'Song of Israel'	Matt Riesz
18	Ctt. Jewel Box	Randy Dugan
19	Pot. Hsinying Orange Nugget 'Orange Queen'	Randy Dugan
20	Paph. Supersuk 'Eureka' x Paph. Raisin Pie 'Hsinying'	Donna Sherwood
21	Paph. Supersuk 'Eureka' x Paph. Raisin Pie 'Hsinying'	Donna Sherwood
22	Den. Popeye	Kristine Stewart
23	Ascocentrum miniatum (AKA Vanda Miniata)	Payton Millican
24	Phal. Longboard 'Snowbird'	Kristine Stewart
25	Phal. Hybrid (purple/white from Everlast Orchids)	Kristine Stewart
26	Den. Chanthaboon Sunrise	Payton Millican
27	Prosthechea Green Hornet	Payton Millican
28	Den. antennatum	Payton Millican

February 2026 Show Table

Photos: Bryon Provencher



Den. Antennatum



Prosthechea Green Hornet



Phal. Hybrid (purple/white from Everlast Orchids)



Phal. Longboard 'Snowbird'



Den. Popeye



Cym. Joseph Schmidt 'Song of Israel'



Paph. Macabre Drama



Pot. Hsinying Pink Doll



Den. Fancy Angel 'Lychee'

February 2026 Show Table

Photos: Bryon Provencher



Pot. Jessie Sabo 'Paradise'



Laelia lundii h.f. coerulea



Epi. Wedding Valley 'Yubana'



Pot. Hawaiian Prominence



Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'



Den. kingianum



Den. Kingianum



Ctt. Jewel Box



Rhy. gigantea - red

February 2026 Show Table

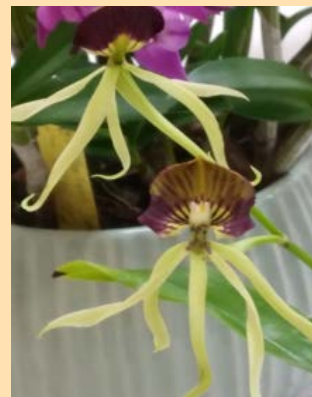
Photos: Bryon Provencher



Den. farmeri - pink



Ascocentrum miniatum (AKA Vanda Miniata)



Prosthechea cochleata



Den. Chanthaboon Sunrise



C. aurantiaca 'Mishima Spots'



Pot. Hsinying Orange Nugget 'Orange Queen'



Pot. Jessie Sabo 'Paradise'



Paph. Supersuk 'Eureka' x Paph. Raisin Pie 'Hsinying'



Zootrophion alvaroi

Product Review: Geevon Wireless Thermohydrometer

Denise Provencher

Boy did this tool get a workout this winter!

Early last year our old wireless thermometer ceased functionally properly, so we purchased a new one by Geevon. This package has a base station and three wireless remote sensors, perfect for locating in your greenhouse, shed, garage, spare bedroom, where ever you have your plants.

This unit will tell you current temperatures, the high and low in each zone, the humidity, and most important will sound an alarm to alert you of a problem. Worried about the heater failing in your greenhouse at 3am? No problem, set it to let you know when the temp is too low, with the base station on your nightstand, it will alert you. This alarm is one of the most important features, and certainly will give you peace of mind.

During the day no worries about it getting too hot in your greenhouse, move the base station to your kitchen, and will let you know it's time to open the door or turn on the fans in the greenhouse.

We have found this unit to be dependable, very informative, and an enormous help during the winter months. It's available at Walmart, amazon, eBay, etc. for around \$30 give or take.

This product has our thumbs up for anyone growing orchids, or other sensitive plants.

The unit also comes with just one remote sensor should you only need one.

Geevon Indoor Outdoor Thermometer Wireless with 3 Remote Sensors, Wireless Thermohydrometer, Digital Temperature Humidity Meter with 200FT/60M Range(White)





The American Orchid Society 2026 Spring Conference

*In conjunction with the Apopka
International Spring Orchid Festival
Apopka, FL*

April 8th -11th

Featuring:

- *Expert Orchid Speakers*
- *Hands-On Workshops*
- *Meeting of the Members*
- *Award Presentations*
- *AOS Elections*
- *Top Quality Vendors*
- *AOS Judging*
- *Welcome Reception*
- *Live & Silent Auctions*
- *Sumptuous Gala Dinner*

For more information visit <https://aos.org/members-meetings> or email TheAOS@aos.org.


American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

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	Mar. 03, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EST	Mar. 18, 2026 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	April 02, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Orchid Culture Days <i>Pay Per View at Your Leisure</i>
Topic	Greenhouse Chat FREE Live Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 28</i>	Vanda Cultivation FREE Live Make Caring for Your Vanda Orchids Easier. Tips from a Passionate Orchid Grower.	Greenhouse Chat FREE Live Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 31</i>	Recorded Webinars Choose from Eight Popular Full Day Presentations. Gain Insight Into the Culture of Orchids. Select <u>Virtual</u> from the Full Index to Sign up for the Culture Day Presentations.
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Serena Roman Orchid Grower Known as Lady Vanda	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Expert Growers, AOS Judges, Scientists, Biologists and More



*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

Club Elections are right around the corner. All open positions have been filled, except for Secretary. Here is the basic duties description. If you would like to volunteer for this position for the coming year, please let Matt know at the next meeting.

Secretary:

The Secretary shall keep accurate and complete Minutes of all the meetings of the Club and of the Executive Board; The Secretary shall furnish a copy of the Minutes to the President.

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: corvalor21@gmail.com

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