



THE KEIKI



Volume 35
Issue 5
May 2026

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

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Hi everyone,

Happy May, everyone! I hope you all read last month's Keiki and got the information that our next meeting after the early April picnic will be in MAY. May 23rd, to be exact. Another important thing to note is that the May 23rd meeting **will** be held at the St. Joan of Arc church, where we've been for some time. However, this meeting will be our **LAST** at that location. Starting with our June meeting we'll be at the Lion's Club in Homosassa.

We have some more tours of members' gardens coming up on May 9th. We'll be visiting Tiffanie Swigart's and Matt Riesz's gardens in and around Spring Hill. Space will be limited so we need people to sign up in advance. Please contact Susan Kimmel via email at sk_orchid@yahoo.com or with a text message at (727) 514-8623.

We have been very fortunate to receive a gift from Ellen Brewes in Brooksville of two GIANT Cattleya orchids. We had a repotting meeting at my house last week and divided them, cleaning out ferns and bugs and making MANY divisions out of each orchid. We were even fortunate to find an old tag in one of the orchids identifying it as Ctt. Penang 'Black Caesar' AM/AOS. The other is unidentified but we have a picture of its beautiful dark pink flowers. Some of these divisions will be on our raffle tables, and in our auction in August, so keep an eye out for them!

It's May, and the time for re-potting your orchids is NOW. Most of our orchids are in prime condition for re-potting, as they're entering their most active growth period. Re-potting them now will allow them the best opportunity to establish new roots and acclimate to their new homes. The only exceptions I can think of are bifoliate Cattleyas (these have two leaves per pseudobulb). The best time to re-pot them is when they are just starting to develop new roots. If you divide a plant while re-potting please save a division for our August auction. I know I've already made a number of such divisions as I deal with some of my very overgrown orchids. I might bring some of those divisions to the raffle table too.

Best wishes for happy orchids, and I hope to see you all May 23rd!

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>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

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

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2026

Updated as of 5/1/2026

June 27- Harry McElroy - 'Mr. Cymbidium Man' comes to by way of Arkansas & then California. He began growing Cymbidiums in California in 1979. When he moved to Jacksonville in 1991 with 200 Cymbidiums he set out to prove that Cymbidiums can thrive in warm weather. Now he's up to 4000 Cymbidiums & will share his secrets with us. Harry will bring orchids to sell.

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.

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

The Great repotting workshop!

The event was held at the Crews Lake Park this year. What a great turnout! So much fun and very informative. Repotting, mounting, and Australian tree fern fiber demonstrations were part of this fun day.

Photos: Carolyn Shearer







Sue Kimmel giving a tree fern bark repot demo Saturday. Notice eye protection for combating fern dust.

Banrot is in the jar, it safely and effectively controls both root and crown rotting diseases including pythium, phytophthora, rhizoctonia, fusarium and thielaviopsis. Provides both preventative and curative treatments.

Photos: Nancy Huff

Club members enjoyed a special treat when Dr. and Mrs. Charles Thomas opened their amazing greenhouse for viewing. Thousands of orchids, so many of which were in bloom, and other tropical plants such as African violets, anthuriums, ferns, begonias, foliage plants, and even cactus were nestled together in this paradise of blooms. Members were awe-struck at this wonderfully diverse collection of plants, some of which were 50 years old! Charles has been growing his passion since college days when he began filling his dorm room, and hasn't stopped growing since.

Top left: Dr. Thomas greeting guests.

Top right and bottom: Views of the Phalaenopsis aisle.

Photos: Bryon Provencher





Above: Endless Phalaenopsis

Left: Blue Ribbons

Right: Fan for keeping an air space between plastic layers for insulation.

Photos: Bryon Provencher





A selection of beautiful specimens.

Photos: Bryon Provencher



Above: Phalaenopsis in a basket.

Upper right: Cooling system for greenhouse.

Right and bottom row: More great views.

Photos: Bryon Provencher





Annie in awe.

Photo: Nancy Huff

Garden Tour Stops for May 9th

For our Club members, Susan Kimmell has planned another great garden tour coming up on May 9th!

The northern stop will be in Brooksville where Tiffanie Swigart has been growing orchids for over 20 years. With kids and life, it was survival of the fittest for the past 10 years. Now with a brand new greenhouse nestled in her garden, she is getting back into orchids full time. Cattleyas are her favorite. Come visit, and see how she is growing her orchids, and catch a glimpse of her slice of Eden.

Parking for Tiffanie: pull into the driveway, there is plenty of sandy grassy area on the left or right to park on and turn around easily.

Our southern stop needs no introduction. The Club's very own President Matt will be showing his diverse collection of orchids. His knowledge and passion began decades ago in New jersey with the Deep Cut Orchid Society. His orchids now fill his pool screen area, and back yard garden around his palms.

Parking for Matt & Marita: Please park on the street or driveway & come to the front door.

Space is limited. All members interested in attending **must** call/text Susan on her cell or send an email to confirm their attendance so we can plan accordingly. Addresses will be sent upon confirmation. Members can start the tour at Tiffanie's at 10:00am, or at Matt's at 10:00am, **whichever you chose**, and then switch. There is about 20 minutes between the 2 addresses drive time.

Please rsvp to:

Susan Kimmel cell phone # 727-514-8623

or

Email: sk_orchid@yahoo.com



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	May 05, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	June 11, 2026 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	All Greenhouse Chats	Future Webinars
Topic	<u>FREE Live</u> Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by May 02</i>	<u>Members Only Live</u> Hybridizing and Growing Catasetums Learn from the experienced growers with approximately 145 registered hybrids.	<u>FREE Recorded</u> Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Search answers to your questions about all things orchid. View twelve years of Greenhouse Chats.	In Search Of Webinar Presenters You are invited to share <i>your</i> orchid knowledge with an enthusiastic audience of thousands. Contact webinar organizer for details. greenhousechat@aos.org
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Scott Elliott Hybridizer Maleki Hill Orchids	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	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.*

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Activities Director needed: the Club is in need of a person who would enjoy arranging fun events for Club members to go to, such as greenhouse tours, orchid related events, shows, etc. This would involve being on the lookout for exciting events involving orchids, reaching out to business owners, private greenhouse owners, renting a van for large groups, etc. If this sounds like fun, please contact Susan at: sk_orchid@yahoo.com, or Matt at: mrfishnj@gmail.com

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.