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The Keiki



September 2026

Volume 35

Issue 9

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: 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.

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President’s Message

Hi everyone!

Our biggest fund raiser of the year is behind us. It was months of hard work. We collected the biggest collection of plants we have ever had, and most were from our members which, in my opinion, is where the best orchids come from, and we had the largest number of volunteers we’ve ever had. The numbers bear that out as we sold \$11,270 in orchids, and after subtracting costs, we put \$9997 into our checking account to run the club. That’s a new record for the club and has to be among the highest auction net profits in our area among orchid clubs. Gertie will go over all the numbers at our September meeting so we can talk about it even more, but what an incredible success! I’ve been so touched by all of your support for our society. I’m truly moved by everyone’s help to not only support our society, but to enable it to grow. I even had a member come up to me at the July meeting to tell me she had months ago made a commitment, so could not be at the auction, but was sending her husband to buy orchids. I had another member after the auction tell me they wanted to donate \$100 to help cover the cost of a vendor. Wow! Many thanks to all of you who helped organize, work, buy, and support the efforts to make the auction happen. Let’s plan to celebrate our success when you come in for our meeting in September.

Our next meeting is on September 12th, 2 weeks earlier than our usual meeting day. We picked this because it was the only day that the church had available for the meeting room, but that won’t be an issue very often at the Lion's Club. This month’s meeting features Keith & Dina Emig. They grow Oncidiums, Cattleyas, Vandas, Dendrobiums, and they hybridize new orchids. Keith is not only

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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 9/1/2026

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

informative but a very entertaining speaker. Dina interjects as he's talking (as any good wife should) and it makes for a really fun meeting. They are going to teach us about what we can do now, to help get our orchids through the winter. Many folks lost a lot of their orchids with last year's cold, so we're going to see what we can do to change that. Their talk is **'How to prepare your plants and growing space for cool weather'**. They will bring orchids for us to buy, so plan to come early to make your selections and enjoy the company of friends, even the friends you haven't met yet. Everyone is welcome to join us. We look forward to learning and celebrating our successful auction with everyone on September 12. The doors open at 11:00. The meeting will start at 12:00, and then the Emigs will start their talk. If you have any plants in bloom, bring them to share their beauty with everyone on the Bloom Table. If you have any plants that you have questions about, put them in a box or bag and bring them. There will be folks there who are happy to help share their knowledge and ideas of what to do.

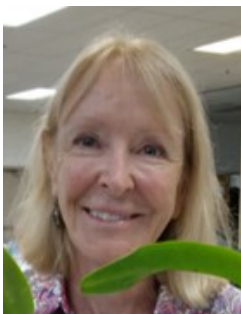
Fall is fast approaching; you'll notice that the days are growing shorter, but we're getting a lot of rain. This is when your fungicide applications will pay off. Keep up with your sprays. Remember that many Dendrobiums cannot do Physan. Increase your air flow to your orchids; whatever that means for your growing area. Try to find ways to keep your fans running so your orchids dry after the rain, or uplifting tree limbs so they get better air flow. We'll learn even more culture information after Keith & Dina's talk.

Looking forward to seeing everyone,

See you then,

Susan Kimmel

sk_orchid@yahoo.com



Scenes from the Auction

Photos: Bryon Provencher





Our auction even made the news! Check out the article link below:
[Bidding on blooms: Orchid lovers bid big on rare plants at Nature Coast Orchid Society auction | Local News | chronicleonline.com](https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/bidding-on-blooms-orchid-lovers-bid-big-on-rare-plants-at-nature-coast-orchid-society-auction/)



YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE DAY WILL BRING

by Gertie Messenger

I received a voicemail on Friday, August 14, from a gentleman, Chuck Hudley, who was trying to preserve a live oak tree in Homosassa. He felt certain there was a Butterfly Orchid or Green Fly Orchid (both protected by law) in the canopy of the tree. Now this tree, which also qualifies as a Heritage Oak, will soon be on the chopping block to make room for a Starbucks and Chipotle Drive-Thru at the intersection of State Rd. 19 and Homosassa Trail. I immediately called Jeff Rundell, my “orchid answer man” to the rescue. Jeff contacted Chuck and they agreed to meet the next day to find the saving grace for this tree.

Chuck Hudley is a man passionate about nature. He loves to fish and enjoys his surroundings and the nature that fills it. He certainly feels that the Nature Coast is losing its nature and felt compelled to do his part to save the tree. He had been to the intersection at various times with officials from Citrus County trying to find a reason to save this tree. There were two other Heritage Oaks in question but fortunately, they live within the County “Right of Way” and will not be removed. Chuck was looking for ammo to take to the pending Commissioners’ meeting to prevent this tree from being removed.

When Saturday morning came, I thought to myself, I have a Butterfly Orchid, however, I would never recognize it in the wild let alone on a big tree, so I wanted to go and learn. Jeff is the consummate teacher and is always willing to share his knowledge when the opportunity presents itself. He came prepared with literature and two of his personal native plants, a Butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) and a Greenfly orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*) to show Chuck what they look like. He scoured the trees with his binoculars for one of the native orchids but could not see one since the tree was quite massive. What Chuck perceived to be orchids was Spanish Moss and Resurrection Fern. Chuck lives in Inverness so Jeff shared some areas where Chuck might want to visit to see the real thing in the wild.

After listening to Jeff talk, I had no idea where some of those places were. I couldn’t believe it would be that easy or close by to find any, so Jeff and I proceeded on an orchid adventure to seek out the Greenfly Orchid. We wound on one of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Preserve trails that leads to a salt marsh on Mason Creek. It was very hot by then and we doused ourselves in bug spray to head into the bush. Jeff loves

snakes and I feared we might see more of those than orchids so I let Jeff know if I saw anything “snakey” I would be out of there! Jeff instantly spotted the orchids as we proceeded down the path but all I could see was some shriveled-up growth on the tree trunk. Growing up in Michigan, I still marvel at what we grew as houseplants grows wild here in the bush and in our yards. He explained the cold winter had taken its toll on the orchids and they were looking poorly. The bush was not as lush as it should be this time of year with the weather we’ve been having. A good case for helping to preserve the orchids we have in the wild. We finally arrived at a small lookout at the salt marsh; it was high tide and the breeze off the water was welcome. After a brief rest, we headed back down the trail verifying the orchids we saw. I think I actually got the hang of what to look for.

I certainly never thought my Saturday would turn out the way it did. I’ll be cheering Chuck and the oak tree on at the September BOCC meeting, I’ll always remember what Jeff taught me along the trail, and I will appreciate even more when my Butterfly Orchid blooms in my greenhouse!



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	Sept. 01, 2026 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	Sept. 27, 2026 Sunday 11 am—4 pm CULTURE DAY	Oct. 07, 2026 Wednesday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	<i>FREE Live</i> Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by August 30</i>	<i>Live PAY PER VIEW</i> SAVE THE DATE Tiny Treasures of the Orchid World Online Registration Required Four Guest Speakers Four Great Topics	<i>FREE Live</i> Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Oct. 05</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	The Experts Offering Culture Tips and Education.	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer



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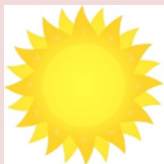
For members with plants or other orchid related items to sell, place your notice here. Send info to the editor for placement in this section. Please include Item, price, size, your contact information, other helpful information.

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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.
