



Volume 31
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Thanks to those who
have contributed to our
club.....Advertisement
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THE KEIKI



Coming Soon

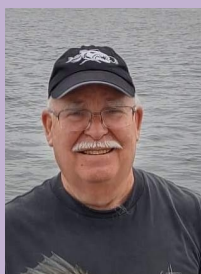


Our **new venue** is **Northcliffe Baptist Church**
10515 Northcliffe Blvd, Spring Hill, FL 34608

February 18th, 2023 – Laura Newton - Bulbophyllums

12 pm til 3 pm. Doors open at 11 am for vendor plants and socializing

President's Message



President's Message, February 2023

Hello, everyone!

Thanks to all of you who came to our January meeting and renewed your membership! I hope you all got some great plants from our guest, Pam Waters, of Orchids in Bloom. Pam brought us some terrific orchids to choose from. I wish I had more space and more money.

Thanks also to everyone for singing happy birthday, instigated by Julie Smolka. It's so nice to be 30 years old again and to have such good friends!

We have some exciting programs coming up, that you won't want to miss. This month, we will have Laura Newton. Laura is a NCOS member, an AOS judge, and the awards registrar for the AOS. Whew! On top of that, she grows terrific Bulbophyllums and she'll share with us some of her secrets for doing that. Personally, I am still learning how to get them to bloom for me and having mixed success. Perhaps a little tune-up will help.

In March, we will have our annual orchid show! Marita passed around some sign-up sheets at our January meeting but we still need more volunteers to do simple things like staff the entry tables, raffle table, set up plants, etc. We'll pass those sheets around again and I encourage you to sign up for something. We DO feed our volunteers! We also need your flowering plants for our display. Now is the time to be grooming them for their best presentation. You never know, you could win one of the many awards and ribbons. EVERY flower is beautiful and worthy of appreciation.

In April, we will have Bill Nunez, a great and entertaining orchid grower, who will talk to us about how to raise Vanilla orchids in our area. He says YES, you CAN do it!

Looking forward to some warmer weather and a great year!

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>	Bella Roberts
<u>Treasurer</u>	Yvette Lewis
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Trustees</u>	Rosanne Wenz Jeanne Montgomery

EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEES

<u>Auction Chair</u>	Marita Riesz
<u>Show Chair</u>	Bob East
<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Membership</u>	Arlene and Arty Appelbaum
<u>Publicity</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Elaine Erickson
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Elaine Erickson
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Volunteers please
<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 2023 *Updated as of 1/17/2023*

Note: Dates *** are different from our normal 3rd Saturday schedule, as the facility is not available on our normal dates those months.

February 18th, 2023 – Laura Newton - Bulbophyllums

March 18th/19th – annual orchid show

April 15th – Bill Nunez – Vanilla orchids in FL

May 20th – repotting workshop

*** June 24th – Ecuagenera/Dayanette

July 15th - <open>

August 19th – Auction

September 16th – Accent Orchids

*** October 14th - Picnic

November - <No meeting?>

December 16th - <Holiday Party>



Membership Notes

For January

by Arlene Appelbaum

Once again, happy new year all. It was good to see so many of you at our January meeting. For all of you who sent me your 2023 renewal dues, I want to say a big thank you. Due to the high cost of postage now, I am holding receipts and new 2023 membership cards until our February meeting. Hopefully I will see you on Feb. 18th.

It was stated by our president, Matt Reiz, that those who did not pay their renewal dues by the end of January would be deleted from our membership roster. We now have a total of 99 members, including 14 honorary and life members. We don't want to lose any long standing people, so please come to our meeting, bring your check, and you will be added back into our current membership records.

Arlene Appelbaum

Membership Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Yvette Lewis

Current Report as of 1/31/2023

Prior bal. as of 12/31/2023:	\$14,934.87
Total receipts (raffle, etc.):	\$725.00
Total disbursements:	<u>\$1560.00</u>
Bank bal. as of 1/31/2023:	\$14,099.87
Outstanding Checks:	<u>\$300.00</u>
Cash On Hand 1/31/2023:	<u>\$13,842.01</u>

MEMBERS:

Arlene has graciously taken over sending get-well cards and sympathy cards to members. If you know of any members who are ill or grieving, please send her an email to let her know at fluffy2cats@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



NCOS Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 28th, 2023
Meeting held at Northcliffe Baptist Church

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Matt Riesz. Matt announced that the lady who made the ceramic orchids (her name is Tim) has moved to Maine.

New Members and Guest were welcomed by Matt. Arlene indicated that the Membership dues must be paid by the end of January. Only 75 of 152 Members have paid. For those who have not paid – the names will be removed from our Roster and will no longer receive our monthly Newsletter. If dues are paid after the end of January-you will be reinstated and will again receive the Newsletter. Arlene indicated if anyone had any questions to please contact her.

Matt also indicated that the Society has the fertilizer for \$15.00 and the Megathrive for \$30.00 and were available to purchase at the raffle table.

Bella Roberts has agreed to take the position of 2nd VP which is the Program Chair. She will be getting Speakers for our future meetings. Susan Kimmel has also agreed to take over the Historian report. Matt Riesz thanked both for taking these positions.

The current Treasurer Report was not available.

For the Show and Sale at the VFW – we are going to need plants from Members to help create the display – so keep your eyes open for plants we may be able to use. Help will be needed for the set-up on Friday and clean-up on Sunday. Marita will also need help with the display on Friday. It was indicated that a total of 100 plants will be needed from Members and Vendors to create the display.

Marita indicated that food was needed for all 3 days for breakfast and lunch. Volunteers were needed to help in the kitchen and/or to donate food.

Julie Smolka indicated that Matt had a birthday coming up and all Members sang Happy Birthday to Matt. For the meeting in February Laura Newton will be discussing Bulbophyllums, in March we have our Show and Sale, in April we will have Nominations for some Board Members and Bill Nunez will speak about Encyclias and May will be a repotting workshop.

Pam Waters from Orchids In Bloom was our Guest Speaker and arrived later than planned. She brought plants for sale and did get to answer a couple questions from Members. She was very apologetic and felt bad about not getting there in time.

Matt and Jeff discussed the Bloom Table. Matt also discussed what not to do with some plants that were brought in by a Member.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by – Cheryl Crilly-Secretary

FOR THE NOVICE

Bud Blast and Flower Blighting

By Sue Bottom

Who does not enjoy seeing a jewel orchid with its interesting leaf coloration and venation, or a *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* with its beautiful variegated leaves? The orchid aficionado always enjoys a well-grown plant with unblemished leaves and a good growth habit. While there are some orchids grown for their foliage, the big payoff for our time and trouble is the appearance of long-anticipated flowers. When the floral display is ruined because the buds blast before opening or become blighted after opening, we wonder what we should have done differently.

NEWLY ACQUIRED PLANTS Bud blast on plants that have just been brought into your growing area is probably the norm rather than the exception. Think about how your new orchid was uprooted from the cozy greenhouse where its every need was met, jammed into a box or flat, loaded into a truck or airplane, or sat on the shelf at the retail outlet before arriving at your growing area. Every environmental cue an orchid uses to adjust to its environment was confused by its journey. It should not be surprising that these jet-lagged plants drop some or all of their buds.

THE PROBLEM OF “TOO” When developing buds become yellow, shrivel, dry up, and ultimately fall off instead of blooming, there is a problem with the environment, pests, or plant health. If the plant has been growing well in your care for several months when you notice the buds drop, there may be a problem that usually involves “too”; i.e., too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry. It could be too hot if grown in a too-sunny window, if too close to a heating vent, or if left in a too-hot car. It could be too cold if grown too close to a window during cold weather, if too close to an air conditioner vent, or if taken to your society meeting on a cold night. It could be too wet if it is watered too frequently or if the potting mix is too old and the roots die due to lack of air, so the plant does not have the strength to flower. It could be too dry if grown in an environment with too-low humidity, such as an air-conditioned or heated home, or if it is provided with too little water, forcing the plant to reabsorb moisture from the buds as a survival mechanism. While you cannot bring the blasted buds back to life, you can help prevent future buds from blasting if you can diagnose which “too” is causing the cultural problem.

CHEMICAL DAMAGE Chemicals sprayed onto flowers can damage them, causing a burnt appearance with browning around the edges or dry spots on the buds. As the water in the chemical solution evaporates from the flower, the previously dissolved chemical is concentrated on the tender flower. Overly strong fertilizer solutions can cause chemical burns on flowers, as can many pesticides and fungicides, particularly copper-bearing chemicals. Be careful to accurately calculate and measure chemical application rates to prevent overdosing your plants. To the extent possible, try not to wet the flowers with fertilizers or chemicals unless you know they will not damage your flowers. During summer’s heat, you may consider spraying in the late afternoon when it is cooler.

PREMATURE AGING If present at a certain level, ethylene gas can cause young *phalaenopsis* and *dendrobium* buds to drop or age prematurely. Ethylene gas causes sepals of just-opened *cattleya* flowers to lose their substance and become dry and brown; the petals can behave similarly at higher concentrations. At even higher levels, you might notice leaf yellowing and a decline in plant health. Ethylene is a byproduct of incomplete combustion, so it can find its way into your growing area from an unvented fuel-fired heater, a leaky vent line from the heater, a nearby internal combustion engine, a leaking gas line or automotive exhaust fumes. In industrialized or smoggy areas, there may be certain times of the year when inversion layers trap pollutants under the clouds, so ethylene concentrations can build up to damaging levels. Ethylene gas is also naturally produced by rotting or ripening fruit. In fact, ethylene is released by your newly impregnated orchids, albeit at very low concentrations. You may have noticed that the flower fades as the ovary swells. This is from the ethylene emitted

by the plant; some think as a signal to pollinators to move on to the next flower. If you notice premature aging of your flowers, make sure your heaters are operating and venting properly and internal combustion engines are downwind from your growing area. If circumstances and cold weather force you to use an emergency unvented propane heater, realize you have traded some of your flowers to save your orchids.

FLOWER SHEATHS In younger plants, you may occasionally get a blind sheath, one in which the bud fails to develop into a flower. In some cases, this is normal because the plant is not mature yet. If a blind sheath forms on a mature plant, it may not have stored up enough energy for it to flower. The most likely cause in an otherwise healthy plant is insufficient light. A second possibility is nighttime temperatures that are too warm. Warm nights encourage your orchid to consume energy rather than storing it for future growth and flowering.

Sometimes a cattleya will rest after it finishes growing the pseudobulb before initiating flower buds so the sheath is empty for several months. Rogerson's classic articles (2004, 2016) on *Cattleya* species culture describe how cattleyas can be categorized into two groups based on whether they send out roots before or after they flower. The Chadwicks (2006) expanded this concept for the large-flowered unifoliate noting that the *Cattleya* species that root before they flower are the same species that rest before buds appear in the sheath. The resting period can be as short as one month for a *Cattleya labiata* to as many as five or six months for a *Cattleya mossiae*. This relationship between rooting and flowering does not hold true for bifoliate cattleyas. Both *Cattleya tigrina* (*Cattleya leopoldii*) and *Cattleya guttata* root after the growths mature, but *C. tigrina* blooms from a green sheath while *C. guttata* rests and blooms from a dried and brown sheath. Before you conclude that your cattleya is not going to flower from that sheath, check its parentage to see whether you just have to wait patiently for nature to take its course.

Keep an eye on the color of the developing flower sheaths to make sure they are healthy. As long as the sheath is green, a healthy yellow or dried brown color, the sheath is fine and will continue to protect emerging buds. There is no reason to remove a dried sheath unless it starts to rot. Sometimes, when there are big temperature and humidity swings in your growing area, moisture will condense in the sheaths and ultimately cause the bud primordium to rot. If the sheath turns an unhealthy yellow or wet-looking brown color, gently pull the sheath apart to allow air movement and drain any condensation away from developing buds.

PESTS Small sucking insects such as aphids and thrips can damage developing buds and flowers. For any of these flower-targeting pests, you will have to spray the flowers being attacked, so choose your chemicals carefully and be careful to make sure your application rates are proper. You can knock aphids off the flowers with a gentle water or soapy water spray or dab at them with isopropyl alcohol.

Thrips can cause buds to abort and flowers to look burned or virused. These small, flying insects have rasping mouth parts that do considerable damage to the tender floral tissue. If you have a penchant for blooming plants and trees in your yard or live in an agricultural region, you may find there is a considerable population of thrips in the area that may decide to stop in and snack on your orchids. To the extent you can spray citrus trees, gardenias, and other plants that attract thrips, you may be able to keep populations low and out of your growing area. However, if you know there are thrips in your area, the best way to protect your blooms is a preventative weekly "poofing" with Orthene (acephate), Avid (abamectin) or Conserve (spinosad). You do not need to do a broadcast spray onto every leaf surface, just a targeted spray onto all the flower buds and open flowers. You should spray any emerging or exposed floral parts and make it part of your regular weekly routine.

Large chewing pests such as caterpillars, cockroaches, snails, slugs, grasshoppers, mice, etc. can eat flower parts and do considerable damage quickly. Caterpillars can be physically removed, or you can spray with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*),

naturally occurring bacteria that kills caterpillars. Poison baits are required for larger pests, once you decide which pest is causing your problems. You might have to do a few nighttime forays with a flashlight to discover what your next step might be. For cockroaches, spread one of the granular boric acid products like Niban. For snails and slugs, try some iron phosphate products such as Sluggo. For rodents, set up rat traps or poison bait stations. Be sure to keep pets and small children away as some products can be deadly. For grasshoppers, crushing them between two bricks is immensely satisfying.

DISEASE Flowers can be marred by the ever-present fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, particularly when cool and damp conditions favor its growth. Moisture on the flowers is required for *Botrytis* to grow. Water early in the day, increase air movement, and provide warm (>60 F or 16 C) nighttime temperatures to help keep the flowers dry. If your budget does not allow you to keep your growing area this warm, try spraying the flowers with Daconil (chlorothalonil) or Medallion (fludioxonil) on a regular basis. There is no way to remove the spots once a flower is infected. Removing the blighted flowers to a sealed container will help reduce the number of spores that could act as an inoculant in your growing area.

VIRUS Flower blighting caused by some of the more common orchid viruses results in floral color break or necrotic streaking, both of which are unsightly. Sometimes thrips or chemical damage is mistaken for viral color break and normal aging is mistaken for blossom brown necrotic streak. You may want to consider keeping Agdia test strips on hand as a simple way to confirm whether the plant has cymbidium mosaic virus or odontoglossum ringspot virus. There is no treatment for a virused plant and there is the risk of spreading the virus to other plants in your collection. Given the expectation that the viral flower blighting will recur year after year, it is a simple decision to throw the plant away, and not into the compost bin. Though you hate to discard any orchid, you can accentuate the positive by thinking of it as an opportunity to open bench space for those new seedlings you are hoping to flower this year.

A plant generally does not initiate the development of buds unless it has enough stored energy to flower. If buds drop after forming, there has likely been some sudden change in environmental conditions. Be observant of changes in sunlight, temperatures, humidity, etc. in your growing area, so you can help prevent the problems of “too.” Keep careful watch over your plants for evidence of pest and disease problems and have a precautionary treatment plan in force to prevent them from blighting your flowers. We may lose a few flowers along the way, but if we keep observing, listening, and learning, we will get better at growing and flowering our orchids year after year.

REFERENCES

Chadwick, A.A. and A. Chadwick. 2006. *The Classic Cattleyas*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. p.50–52.

Rogerson, W.P. 2004. *Cattleya Species and Their Culture*. Orchid Digest 68(4):196–219.

Rogerson, W.P. 2016. *Cattleya Species and Their Culture*. Orchids 85(10, Supplement):26–37.

ADDITIONAL READING

Gibson, J., B. Whipker, S. Blankenship, M.N. Boyette, T. Creswell, J. Miles, and M. Peet. 2000. Ethylene: Sources, Symptoms and Prevention for Greenhouse Crops. Horticultural Information Leaflet 530. North Carolina State University.

Jones, S. 2003. Bud Blast. Orchids 72(7):498–499.

— Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera and are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society’s website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board (sbottom15@hotmail.com).

Nature Coast Orchid Society annual show and sale postcard



Orchids & Supplies will be available for purchase

Vendors:	Accent Orchids	Orchids in Bloom
	The Orchid Den	Florida Orchid House
	Garden Trails	Lady Vanda

AOS Sanctioned Show

(call Bob East for more info: 352-409-6123)

Entrance Fee is \$3.00 and includes 1 free raffle ticket.

Extra raffle tickets available for purchase. We hold hourly raffle drawings and you must be present to win.



Phrag. Don Wimber



Phal. Hybrid



Den. kingianum



Phal. Hybrid



Mormolyca ringens



Rth. Orange Nuggett



C. Memoria Chuang Wen-



Phal. FANGtastic Stephen Mattana



Rhynchostylis gigantea 'Plai'



Rhynchostylis gigantea 'Peach'

NCOS Show Table January 28th, 2023

Plant Name	Grower
Rth. Orange Nuggett	Jeff Rundell
Den. Hybrid - Pink	Jennifer Semro
Phal. Hybrid - White	Jennifer Semro
Phal Hybrid - Pink	Jennifer Semro
Den. Hybrid	Jennifer Semro
Phal. FANGtastic Stephen Mattana	Matt Riesz
<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i> 'Peach'	Matt Riesz
Phrag. Don Wimber	Matt Riesz
C. Memoria Chuang Wen-Hsien	Matt Riesz
<i>Rhynchostylis gigantea</i> 'Plai'	Matt Riesz
<i>Mormolyca ringens</i>	Rachel Herter
Den. kingianum	Susan Kimmel

The American Orchid Society Webinars

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch the recorded webinars any time. Some webinars require you to be an AOS member.

Upcoming Webinars

Visit the AOS website at

www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx

For upcoming webinars

Go here to join the AOS:
<https://secure.aos.org/join/new-membership>

Many Thanks to all the orchid growers that
donated plants to help make our annual auction
a success



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