



Volume 32

Issue 2

February 2024

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have contributed to our
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THE KEIKI



Coming Soon



February 17th - "Brazilian Cattleyas and their Relatives", presented by Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids. He is a taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower. Christiana, his wife, is a biologist & does the daily orchid care. Miranda Orchids started in 1999 and is a nursery specializing in growing mainly selected Cattleya alliance species. Many of the plants available are produced in their lab and nursery in Central Florida from an extensive collection of stud plants. The rest are brought from Brazil to increase variety and novelty. They will be bringing plants for us to buy.

President's Message



Hello all!

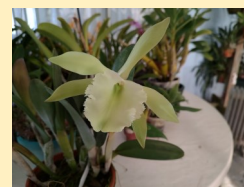
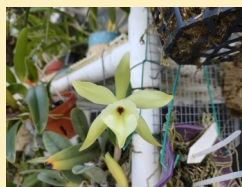
Welcome to February, with the wild weather swings to match. They continue as they have so far this winter, and I'm getting a bit tired of the orchid shuffle. But my orchids are responding to the changing day lengths and temperature swings by putting out buds and flowers. My phals are in spike and I'm hopeful they will still be nice by show time in April. Rl. digbyana and its relatives, Rl. glauca and Rl. Aristocrat, are flowering nicely and perfume the whole lanai at night. Soft-cane Dendrobiums like the nobile types like anosmum are starting to show buds too. It's an exciting time of year, with so much potential.

How about our new meeting place?! I thought it worked really well and our speaker, Jim Roberts from Florida Suncoast Orchids started the year out with a bang. We had terrific attendance, too, with over 60 members. Parking is a little tight, but just a reminder that we are also allowed to park in the medical center's parking lot next door. The acoustics are nice and the center is now allowing us to bring our own food so expect some great goodies arranged by Annie Aierstock and her volunteers in the future.

We have a great lineup of speakers planned this year. This month "*Brazilian Cattleyas and their Relatives*" will be presented by Francisco Miranda of Miranda Orchids. He is a taxonomist, naturalist and orchid grower. Christiana, his wife, is a biologist & does the daily orchid care. Miranda Orchids started in 1999 and is a nursery specializing in growing mainly selected Cattleya alliance species. Many of the plants available are produced in their lab and nursery in Central Florida from an extensive collection of stud plants. The rest are brought from Brazil to increase variety and novelty. They will be bringing plants for us to buy.

Best wishes for happy orchids, and I hope to see you all at our February meeting!!

Matt



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>Trips</u>	Volunteers please
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<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2024

Updated as of 02/7/2024

March 16th, 2024: "Growing and Flowering Your Cattleyas Better" will be presented by Courtney Hackney. Courtney is a marine ecologist specializing in coastal wetlands. The former Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida, he is now Professor Emeritus, i.e. he retired. Although he grows many different orchids, his favorite is the Cattleyas & resulted in his publishing American Cattleyas, in 2004. Together, he & his wife, Rose Ganucheau, run Hackneau's Art & Orchids. He will be bringing plants for us to buy.

April 13th and 14th, 2024: our annual AOS-judged orchid show to be held at St. Joan of Arc Church, 13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609. The theme is "Orchid Oasis". We will have many great vendors selling orchids, potting supplies, and orchid-related items.

May 18th, 2024: We will hold a workshop on Repotting and Mounting Orchids

June 15th, 2024 Jim-N-I Orchids

July 20th, 2024. Nick, from Rusty Exotics will talk about growing Habenarias in Florida

August 17th, 2024. Annual NCOS orchid auction

September 5th, 2024. Note this is a change from our normal meeting schedule. Fred Clarke, of Sunset Valley Orchids in California will be our speaker

October 18th, 2024. Annual NCOS picnic

November 16th, 2024. "Dendrobium anosmum and its Relatives" talk will be presented by Jim Roberts, of Florida Suncoast Orchids. Jim has been growing orchids over 30 years in climates ranging from cold Minnesota to hot SW Florida growing conditions. He has traveled extensively in search of orchid treasures in Hawaii, South America, & Europe, seeking the plants that will grow and bloom best for his clients. He will have orchids for sale.

December 14th, 2024. Annual Holiday Party



Membership Notes

by Arlene Appelbaum

Our January 20th meeting was an outstanding success at our new venue, the Kreuger Enrichment Center. The room was packed with over 58 members signing in and 6 new folks added to our roster for 2024.

If you haven't paid your dues, please do so at our Feb. 17th meeting.

Many thanks to Carol Siegley for taking over the task of compiling the member list. It is much appreciated.

Hope to see you at the February meeting.

Arlene Appelbaum
Membership



NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY
Annual Show and Sale
"ORCHID OASIS"

APRIL 13TH – APRIL 14TH
Saturday – 10 a.m. to 4 pm.
Sunday – 10 a.m. to 4 pm.

American Orchid Society
Judged Orchids on Display

ADMISSION \$5
FREE PARKING

www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com

Show Special

We will have 2 lectures per day:
11:00AM and 1:00PM

Join NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY
Membership Includes:
Monthly Meetings 3rd Sat. ea. Month
Expert Speakers Learning More About Orchids
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New Location – St. Joan of Arc Church
13485 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34609
Corner of Spring Hill Dr. & Coronado Dr.
About 1.5 miles West of FL-589.

Vendors:
Accent Orchids * Garden Trails Orchid Supplies * Jim-N-I-Orchids * Orchids in Bloom
Smiley Orchids * Lady Vanda Orchids * Florida Orchid House * Miranda Orchids *
Plus more...

Thank you for the submission Denise. Sorry for the delay in publishing. Look forward to all your speaker's notes!

Hello Orchid lovers! My husband Bryon and I are new members to the NCOS. I will be writing a summary of what the speakers have talked about at our meetings. I love to write and hope you will enjoy the column and find it useful. We are both avid life-long gardeners, and that is more decades than I want to mention, but we have grown all kinds of plants, including orchids. We are impressed with the friendly and very knowledgeable members of this group and hope to learn a whole lot more about orchids.



Vandas! With Serena Roman Summarized by Denise Provencher

At November's meeting, Serena Roman of Lady Vanda Orchids in Homestead, Florida, shared her vast vanda knowledge with our members. Serena, and her husband Ernesto Cabezas, started growing orchids as a hobby in 2020, and learned a whole lot about them. Here are some great tips on vanda orchids from the experts!

Purchasing vanda orchids

It takes 4-6 years to grow a vanda orchid to flowering age. It must be grown in a lab to start, and that is a difficult and time-consuming process.

When the plants are large enough to sell, you may find them for sale as blooming size, or "near" blooming size. Don't hesitate to ask the seller when to anticipate flowering, as "near" means different things to different sellers.

Look for healthy foliage, roots, and active crown growth when purchasing your plants.

Care and Cultivation

Water

One of the most critical cultivating practices with Vandas is watering!

Serena says it is not the amount of water, it is the frequency that is important. Vandas like a watering 2 times per day since their roots are not in potting media.

Water the whole plant – that's safe, as by design, the water will run off the crown.

Do not soak your vanda in a bucket of water. Not only can this spread disease, but the plant can only take up so much water at a time, so soaking doesn't help.

Distilled water is not necessary unless you have a lot of chemicals in your water.

Collected rainwater is ok, as long as algae that is picked up in the rainwater collection process does not build up on the plant.

Fertilizing

Serena uses DynaGrow 7-9-5 to fertilize her plants, as well as additional calcium and magnesium at a rate of 1 teaspoon per gallon once per week. The calcium helps the plants with heat tolerance, and cell strength. The magnesium will prevent the red/purple tinge to the leaves that is a sure sign of magnesium deficiency.

Seaweed and kelp add micronutrients and aminos. Use this in conjunction with your regular fertilizing routine. It is also perfect to use when plants are weakened such as after a division or repotting.

If plants are dehydrated or weakened, a little rooting hormone at 1 tsp per gallon can help them recover. Place stressed plants in shade to recover.

Pests and Diseases

To protect your plants against pests, spray them before winter when you bring them inside. Thrips love vandas. Girdling of the roots is a sure sign of thrips. Serena uses Bayer Advanced Rose and Flower Care on her plants.

For severe pest infestations, both a topical and a systemic treatment may be needed. Spray the whole plant every 6-8 weeks.

The rainy season especially can bring fungal problems to your plants. You may observe scarring, brown sunken or raised spots. Fungal issues are spread with water splashing. When using a fungicide, use a “spreader sticker” with it, as this will help the product to stick to the plant and not be quickly washed away in rain. Keep the area clean of leaf debris.

Cold Protection

Vandas do not like cold. Temperatures below 50F are to be avoided if possible. In our part of Florida these colder temperatures are certainly expected. She protects her plants if the temperatures are going below 65 for more than a few hours.

Epsom salts provide a magnesium boost to protect plants against cold if given just before a cold spell.

Additional cultivation tips

Do not divide keikis

Do not cut the crown

Do not cut the roots

Do not remove plants from baskets

Do not use scissors to cut top cuttings. Use a knife to avoid crushing the stem.

Some vandas produce multiple spikes – make sure they get adequate nutrition.

Vandas like bright light – not direct sun – Serena has 40% shade covering.

Know the origin of the plant to help you with meeting specific cultivation needs.

If you have any questions at all on vandas, please feel free to contact Serena at ladyvandainfo@gmail.com, or 305-988-8063 or 305-582-3009

Website <https://ladyvanda.com>



Past Speaker Segment

This is the 'past speaker segment' from 6-20-09 which was written by Delia Dunn who was Secretary at the time – this should not be confused with the speaker we had this month also talking on the health of various orchid types.

Our speaker, Gene Siedlecki, was plant doctor when a member presented a drooping, unhealthy plant which he'd repotted unsuccessfully and apparently too deeply. He said the solution now was to cut the roots off because they had had too much water and were dead; to repot in a smaller pot, not too deeply in sphagnum, and place in 60% shade, kept damp but not wet. This hopefully would get it started from a new visible node and instructions were to mist it daily and no watering. When it gets going then it needs to be soaked and then let it dry out before soaking again.

Gene spoke about **Cattleyas** saying they like hot bright sunlight, preferably a western exposure with 30% shade. With those conditions he gets more blooms than he does in his greenhouse. Red on the edges of cattleya leaves means perfect light and dark green leaves means not enough light. Jerry Hart asked what it meant when empty brown sheaths appeared on cattleyas instead of full green sheaths. Gene explained that he'd seen brown sheaths that eventually did bloom and thought it was just not the right time for the plant to bloom and possibly it wasn't getting enough phosphorous.

He did say not to mist on these very hot days or you can cook your buds!

Paphiopedilums do best with a western and southern exposure and need water every day. In nature, the plants grow among rocks in semi shady mountain forests and on limestone hills and cliffs in forests - water runs off the rocks above onto the leaves and hits the limestone underneath which changes the environment to alkaline. He uses an oak leaf mulch mixed with sand which he bakes at 200 deg. for one hour. Oak leaves are acidic so he uses crushed eggshell (calcium) and lime, for alkalinity. Paphs don't like the salts of fertilizers. Feed only once a week with ¼ teaspoon per gallon of water, and flush out every other time of watering.

Yellow on the edge of leaves on a **Phalaenopsis** means a build-up of salts. They must have water. Phals can be cut to force another bloom but if the plant has only two leaves then it would be under stress and he wouldn't do it. If the plant has lots of leaves then it's not a worry. Cool them off to get them to bloom 58-60 deg. and they'll initiate flower spikes. Phals rest after flowering so no feeding at that time. Gene said it was fine to cut the plant off at the new roots to prevent legginess. The plant can become very top heavy and fall out of the pot with the roots remaining in the pot so cutting the roots allows the plant to be put back in the pot.

On a **Vanda**, every time you see new roots you can expect a new flower spike. The roots of a Vanda can be cut to shorten them if they're long and leggy and new shoots will branch out from the cut roots. Someone asked if it's OK for a Vanda to lose leaves and according to Gene that is fine - he said all plants lose leaves and the older the plant the faster they go.

Rainwater is best for orchids as it has no chemicals but is loaded with 70% nitrogen and that's what makes our trees and grass greener when it rains. A thunderstorm doubles the nitrogen from the ions.

Orchid Pests and Diseases

with Jim Roberts
Summarized by Denise Provencher



January's meeting started the year off with an information-packed meeting about the various pests and diseases of orchids. Jim Roberts of Florida Sun-coast Orchids was the speaker. His humorous, engaging presentation left the audience knowing a whole lot more about pests and diseases than when they arrived.

Jim's focus was cattleyas, as they are his passion, but the information is universal to other orchids as well. Members had the opportunity to bring their plants in for an "exam", as well as a virus test. The 2 in 1 Rapid Test kits were available to purchase, and of course Jim brought lots of his plants to sell.

There were many great take-aways from this meeting. Here are some key points.

Basic Needs:

There are 3 basic needs for your orchids. Light #1, Water #2, and Fertilizer #3. Remember, there is no MiracleGro in the jungle. Light and water are the most critical. Fertilizer is third to good culture.

Jim noted that 90% of all orchid problems are in the roots. Whether it's over or under watering, bad planting medium, etc., the root zone is where many troubles begin. Examine your plant's roots first if you suspect a problem.

Pots are for our convenience. There are no pots in the wild. Orchids attach themselves to trees, letting their roots receive plenty of air circulation. When repotting, go only one or two sizes larger than the current container, as you do not want the planting medium to remain too wet, too long.

Don't use peanuts in your potting mix. The world will end before these things decompose. They are not good for the environment, and some actually have a toxic coating on them. Even the peanuts that are designed to decompose are not good for planting with either, as they turn to mush in a pot. Don't use them.

Lava rock is ok, just be sure it is intended for use with orchids. Some lava stone can kill your plants.

Know how often to water. Know the specific needs of the plant. If you are not sure if the plant is overwatered, let it dry out and observe if the plant improves.

Repotting is often done when it does not need to be. If you determine the plant truly needs to be repotted, do not wait until the flowers are finished blooming if it is in bloom. It may be too late then. Cut the flowers, and save the plant.

Viruses:

Viruses are often very difficult to determine the existence of. You cannot tell if a plant is infected just by looking. A perfectly healthy-looking plant can test positive for a virus. There are 126 viruses out there that affect orchids.

If you suspect a virus, don't panic. Learn to recognize the signs using a reliable resource. Test properly. Mitigate appropriately. Divest your collection if you cannot do the above.

It takes about 28 days from the time of initial infection for the entire plant to be infected. It is possible that a plant can be tested and show a negative test result because the infection has not reached the part of the plant that you tested. False negatives happen regularly in testing.

There is no cure for a virus, and the old adage is that if in doubt, throw it out. This may help avoid infecting more plants. However, this is not easy to do, especially if the plant does not show signs of illness!

Water is an excellent transmitter of diseases. Splashing, dripping water can spread viruses, as well as mechanical means, such as handling the plants.

Always sterilize your tools when working from one plant to another, or disease can be spread. Alcohol is not good enough. Jim uses a propane torch for disinfecting his tools. Use the tool when it is still hot, the heat will cauterize the wound. Do not use dry, unheated tools.

Insects:

Jim uses SLUGGO for slugs. Slugs can cause unsightly damage to your plants.

Scale – Scales can usually be wiped off easily with a damp rag or paper towel. Check for at least 3 weeks in a row to catch the new ones that may appear.

Spider mites are usually evident on orchids as a silver sheen. First choice of control is soapy water.

Aphids and mealy bugs can usually be blasted away with water. Safer brand insecticidal soap can also be used.

Thrips – one of the hardest pests to see and to manage - may need a systemic insecticide such as Orthene.

Fungus:

Black sooty mold is a common fungus on orchids. Use ½ TSP of baking soda in a quart of water to wash the plant.

A broad-spectrum fungicide such as Dithane M-45 can be used for more serious problems.

Bacterial problems:

Bacterial problems, such as soft rot, brown rot, or brown spot move faster than fungal infections. They often have a water-soaked appearance, and the affected area can be sunken. Bacteria enters the plant through wounds or natural openings such as stomata. They release enzymes to dissolve the plant tissue, producing large populations that spread quickly.

Sanitizer such as household hydrogen peroxide, copper fungicides, or special powerful chemicals like ZeroTol can be used. Research what is best for your plant.

Cinnamon has antimicrobial and antifungal properties. This makes it a good option for use on an open wound to help dry and seal the wound quickly, as cinnamon is also a desiccant. Use freshly ground bark. It's properties are much better than the processed ground cinnamon made for baking.

Other issues:

Weeds – You do not want weeds in your orchid pots. They steal water and nutrients. Some can be easily pulled. Others may require the use of Round-up applied with a tiny paint brush. Just dab the product on the leaves of the weed. Do not get it on the orchid.

The internet - Be very careful of what you read on the Internet. Consider the source. There is an appalling amount of mis-information out there.

Remember, your first line of defense is good orchid culture. This will greatly reduce the opportunities for pests and diseases to take hold.

Resources:

One of Jim's favorite resources is the St. Augustine Orchid Society website. It is packed with photos to help diagnose various problems in orchids. There are categories for beginners, culture, problems, advice, and images. Under the Problems category you will find an overview of orchid pests and diseases with lots of pictures to assist in diagnosis. <https://staugorchidsociety.org/>

Florida Orchid Growers (FOG) has a Facebook page for orchid enthusiasts in Florida. This is an excellent platform to ask questions and get lots of information. It is a private group, just click on the Join button to join in. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fl.orchid/>

To contact Jim with your orchid questions:

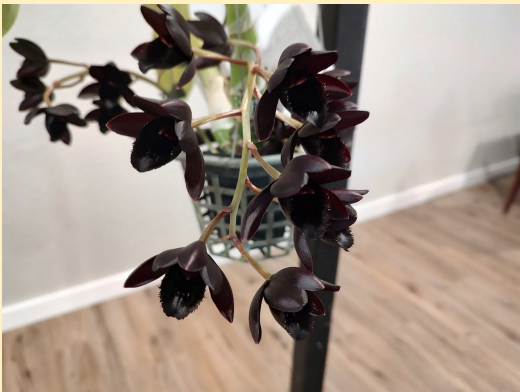
Jim Roberts

FloridaSuncoastOrchids.com

flso@tampabay.rr.com

941-322-8777









NCOS Show Table 1-20-2024

Plant Name	Grower
Den. Doctor Uthai X Den. Burana Royal	Matt Riesz
Bulbophyllum romyi	Matt Riesz
Rhyncholaelia Aristocrat	Matt Riesz
Epicatanthe Volcano Trick 'Volcano Queen'	Bella Roberts
Dendrobium Juree Red 'Splashes'	Bella Roberts
Bulbophyllum lasiochilum	Matt Riesz
Trichocentrum Ollie Palmer	Bella Roberts
Rhynchostylis gigantea (white)	Matt Riesz
Rhynchostylis gigantea 'Plai'	Matt Riesz
Vanda christensonia vietnamica	Randy Dugan
Coelogyne viscosa	Corbin Beller
Fdk. After Dark 'Black Pearl'	Corbin Beller
Prosthechea cochleata	Nancy Huff
Rlc. Cosmic Sparks	Carlos Villaroel
Rhynchochovola Jimminey Cricket	Nancy Huff
Cattleya percivaliana 'Merrill' AM/AOS	Carlos Villaroel
Cattleya percivaliana 'Merrill' AM/AOS	Carlos Villaroel
Cattleya Irene Teo Lai Kheng	Carlos Villaroel
Slc. Fire Magic 'Krull Smith	Bill Nunez
Encyclelyvola Drunken Treefrog	Bill Nunez
Rlc. Nancy Losgar	Bill Nunez

J



A little trip to Orlando and bumped into Pam Waters and Josh Jones both of which will have a booth at our upcoming show along with several other amazing orchid growers and suppliers.



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



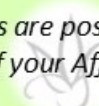
Webinars - Coming Attractions!

REGISTRATION IS EASY <https://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>
 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 indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Jan. 03, 2024 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Jan. 23, 2024 8:30 pm EST Tuesday	Feb. 07 2024 8:30 pm EST Wednesday	Feb. 08, 2024 8:30 pm EST Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Jan. 01</i>	Multi-floral Paphiopedilums Desirable and Highly Awarded Slipper Orchids	Phalaenopsis: From Soup to Nuts A Panorama of Moth Orchids for Everyone	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb.06</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Carol Klonowski Hobby Grower, AOS Judge	David Edgley AOS Judge, Judging Committee Chair	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

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WEBINAR
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Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram
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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

Accent Orchids, St. Petersburg

St. Pete Orchid Farm, St. Petersburg

Orchids In Bloom, Apopka

Ecuagenera, Apopka

Smiley Orchids, Clermont

Florida Suncoast Orchids, Myakka City

Palmer Orchids, Sarasota