



THE KEIKI



Volume 24 Issue 4
April 2016

2016 SHOW EDITION

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Next meeting 1:00 pm

Saturday April 16th at the VFW Post 8681
on County Line Road.



OFFICERS

President

Jeff Rundell

1st Vice President & Past President

Geary Harris

2nd Vice President

Donna Fazekas

Treasurer

Helen Battistrada

Executive Secretary

Pat Dupke

Recording Secretary (not elected position)

Matt Riesz

COMMITTEES

Membership

Linda Meyer & Gloria Thomas

Publicity

Julie Smolka

Website

Bob East

Bulletin (The Keiki)

Ken & Delia Dunn

Refreshments

Laurie Cinnamon & Pat Dupke

Trips

Donna Fazekas & Sonia Terrelonge

Show Table Report

Matt Riesz



Treasurer's Report

By Helen Battistrada

2/20/2016 Balance	\$8,108.62
Receipts	714.00
Disbursements	887.29
3/18/2016 Balance	\$7,935.33

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

By: Laurie Ciannamea

FOOD

Judy Smith

Pat Baig

Marie Tanaka



SODA & JUICE

Rianda Schultz

Laurie Ciannamea



A BIG 'thank you' from Pat Dupke to members who provided food for our 2016 orchid festival. Our vendors and working members truly enjoyed all that was there, especially the hot dogs, brats, and sausages. We have a terrific club!

President's Message by Jeff Rundell



I have tried to assemble my thoughts on our Orchid Festival for several days now but admit my ideas keep falling short of expectations. Finding a way to thank everyone for their help is a daunting task. I hesitate to name anyone specifically lest someone is omitted, but there are some of us that, year after year, get the job done with remarkable, unselfish efficiency. So to all of you that lifted, cleaned, set up, wrote, called, consulted, grew and groomed, donated, arranged, cooked, cashiered, banked, bought, repotted, and tried to help our club, my most gracious and sincere thanks. I will have a more complete report at the upcoming meeting on Saturday and, of course, I am always interested in your input. The future of our Orchid Festival depends on all of us and when I left on Sunday I felt that we had done our best. I hope you did too.

You may recall that I said we were going to try to "group purchase" some supplies that were either hard to obtain or prohibitively expensive in small quantities. We are going to start with the stalite rock material (see the photo provided by Tim) that we can purchase in bulk in Ocala. We need to know if you would like to share in this venture and how much material you would like.



If we get a positive response there are more things including bark, moss, perlite and chemicals that we might be able to supply and save some money at the same time. I also have to confess why this rocky potting media caught my eye. Last year I left my bark-potted orchids outside for 3 weeks of constant rain while I made my annual pilgrimage north. When I returned home the results were disastrous and I lost a number of mature plants. Better too little than too much when it comes to water and orchids.

Since our speaker this month will not be selling orchids we would like to invite members to bring their own orchids, divisions, potting supplies or other orchid related material to sell or trade.

I've got some extra tomato plants that need a home atno charge.

Our April meeting will feature Wally Wilder speaking about Florida's native orchids. I think this is a subject that deserves much more attention. Our prized orchids owe everything to their wild parents yet, thanks to development, over collecting and imported pests, the orchids that started everything are in trouble



Clamshell orchid in Corkscrew Swamp

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The most recent example made my heart sink when I heard that the horrible B-D scale insect has now infected many orchids in Florida's orchid paradise, the Fakahatchee Strand and Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp sanctuary.

This parasite is now fully established in the Ghost orchids that are so unique to Florida. The ghost is an Angraecoid that must have blown in thousands of years ago from Africa and evolved alone. The home of many of its kin is Madagascar which, due to wholesale destruction of its indigenous forest, has other Angraecoids on a path to extinction.

Is it possible that the last stand of these orchids will be made in the greenhouses of devoted growers?

A group of organizations, orchidconservationcoalition.org has promoted saving these and many other species by asking societies to pledge 1% of their dues to help the cause.

Something to consider perhaps?



(Darwin's Orchid (Angraecoid))

We can bring this subject to our level by talking to people who know the locations of some of our local species like the Greenfly (*Epi. magnoliae*) and the Butterfly (*Enc. tampensis*). Inquiries about their locations are usually met with some kind, but understandably evasive answers. Florida orchid clubs have projects in several south Florida locations to reestablish what has been lost to urban sprawl and over collecting. Perhaps, in some way, we can all make a difference in these important efforts. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, so bring your show plants and sale plants and we will talk about orchids.

Super Cooks: Judy and Tim Smith



Did anyone think there might not be enough blooming plants to make a good showing for the Festival this year?? Well just look at these pictures—there really was no shortage. Congratulations to everyone for excellent growing!!



More pictures of the Orchid Festival



For More Pictures of The Show Go to the Website, www.springhillorchidclub.com

Composed by Matt Riesz

Ribbon winners – OLCOSH Show, March 2016

Phalaenopsis

1. Miniature – white
 - First place – tie, white NOID and pink NOID
 - Second place – dark purple NOID
 - Third place – dark purple NOID
2. Standard – Yellow
 - First place - NOID
3. Standard – Pink/purple
 - First place – NOID
 - Second place – Phal. Sogo Yukidom
 - Third place – Phal. Fureshing Speckle
4. Standard – All others
 - First – Phal. Blushing White

Vandaceous

- First place – Ascda Motes Goldpiece
- Second place – Aerangis citrate
- Third place – Ascda. Garayii

Paphiopedilum

- First place – Paph. Del Rosi
- Second place – Paph. Olympian Yard
- Third place – Paph. primulinum

Oncidium Alliance

- First place – Brassia Rex
- Second place – Oncidium Goldiana
- Third place – Brsdm. Gilded Urchin

Cattleya Alliance

1. Species
 - First place – C. percivalianum
2. Hybrids – white/semi alba
 - First place – C. Mary Lynn McKenzie 'Nature's Masterpiece'
 - Second place – Rhyncolaelia Aristocrat
3. Hybrids – red/purple/pink
 - First place – Lctna. Chyong Guu 'Cherry'
 - Second place – C. Travoking Star X C. Colorama
 - Third place – Pot. Love Call X C. Goldenzelle
4. Hybrids – yellow/orange
 - First place – Iwan. Apple Blossom 'Golden Elf'
 - Second place – Blc. Husky Boy 'Romeo'
 - Third place – tie: C. Mishima Spots X self
 - Third place – tie: Blc. Tangerine Horses

Dendrobiums

1. Upright (Phalaenopsis, Latouria, Antelope, etc.)
 - First place – Den. Dr. Uthas X Den. Burana Royal
 - Second place – Den aberrans X Little Atro
 - Third Place – NOID, phal-type
2. Nobile-type
 1. White/light green
 - First place – Den. Angel Baby
 - Second Place – Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'
 - Third place – Den. Snow Queen
 2. Yellow/Sunset
 - First place – Den. Yellow Song 'Canary' X Den. Midas Gold

3. Lavender

- First place – Den. Angel Moon ‘Love Letter’
- Second Place – Den. Utopia
- Third place – Den. Super Ise

3. Species

- First place – tie: Den. Aggregatum
- First place – tie: Den. Anosmum var. superbum
- Third place – tie: Den. Amethystoglossum
- Third place – Tie: Den. Lichenastrum

All Other Genera

- First place – Trias Emily
- Second place – tie: Maxillaria Election
- Second place – tie: Phaius tankervilleae
- Third place – tie: Epi. Polybulbon
- Third place – tie: Ludisia discolor

Best in Show:

- Den. aggregatum



Matt and Marita Riesz' Orchid Story



We bought a house in Spring Hill three years ago, and joined the Orchid Lovers Club of Spring Hill the same weekend we closed on the house, which happened to be the weekend of the OLCOSH annual show.

We moved to Florida permanently in September, 2015, after deciding we didn't want to spend another winter in New Jersey and confirming that Matt's company would be happy to have him in the Tampa area.

I (Matt) have always loved gardening, but avoided orchids, not knowing what to do with them. I became interested in orchids quite by accident. One day in the winter of 2002 we happened to visit a local mall, where we found that an orchid show was in progress from the Deep Cut Orchid Society. Thousands of beautiful blooms in attractive displays were a feast for the eye, and I was captivated by them. In talking with one of the vendors at the show, and admiring an *Oncidium* (*Burrageara Kilauea*) I remarked that if I took it home I'd just kill it.



Burrageara Kilauea – our first orchid.

After all, orchids are hard to grow, right? The vendor's response was one we'll never forget:

"Even if you kill it, it will still be in bloom for at least another month. Where can you get a bouquet from a florist for \$20 that will last that long?" So I took the plunge. I followed her directions (water and feed weekly, weakly), and it bloomed for more than a month in our South-facing window and then proceeded to grow like a weed. I was hooked when it re-bloomed the next year!

We joined our local orchid society, the Deep Cut Orchid Society, in an effort to find out more about these fascinating plants. We quickly began amassing them, from the club raffles, growers who sold plants at the meetings, and from more orchid shows. Some of those died promptly (for example, a poor *masdevallia* which was unprepared for our dry and warm house) and others grew and flourished. It was not long before we had 20 or so orchids.

At one orchid society meeting, it was announced that a new editor was needed, to help the current one with the newsletter. Since I'm a computer specialist and knew how to edit documents, I volunteered. In short order I became the full-time editor for the society.

Working on the newsletter was the next step in my addiction. Finding informative monthly articles for the newsletter, and printing information about the orchids that were displayed at the monthly show tables, forced me to do a lot of research on the internet. In the process I learned a great deal about different kinds of orchids and how to grow them. Discussions with club experts and professional growers helped to expand that newfound knowledge.

Marita often suggested new plants for me to try, usually because she liked the flowers. Orchids have become a constant source of fascination, as they're pretty easy to grow but every kind takes some little special bit of care to make it think it's at home. Even if you kill one, you still learn something.

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Working with the board of directors got me more involved with the society, and Marita began to participate in the several shows that the society exhibits at each year. She enjoys working on the exhibits, designing and constructing them. DCOS's exhibits often win awards so she and the many other volunteers must be doing something right! Both of us have found membership and participation in the orchid society to be a great social activity, with many nice people who have similar interests. Most recently I was vice president of DCOS for 3 years, departing in the middle of my second term.

The transition from New Jersey was an interesting one. We moved about 30 orchids – mostly cattleya alliance – back in June, and left them to themselves under the shade of our palm trees in the back yard for the summer. They would get watered once a week, we felt, when the sprinkler system went on. Little did we expect that the summer would be a record one for rain, and the expected problems did develop. We lost several orchids to black rot, and continue to struggle with it a little bit. But the rest of the plants LOVE their new home and have rewarded us with vigorous growth and multiple blooms. The remaining 90 or so orchids – those that were left after we sold or donated the ones we felt would not like Florida's warmer weather – came down with us in three cars in September. So far they are really loving their new home and we've had something in bloom constantly since we got here.

I do most of the growing in our house, although Marita stands in for watering and feeding duties when I'm traveling. After discovering that the orchids really appreciated being taken outdoors for a summer vacation in New Jersey, I built an arbor for them there which allowed me to hang them where they would get good air movement, dappled shade and be easier to water. Of course, that meant Marita and I could also acquire more orchids. It became an annual project when it was time to move them indoors for the winter – usually in late September after a couple of weeks of cooler nights in the 50s. Our house began to resemble a greenhouse in the winter, with every

available window filled with racks of orchids, all set on humidity trays. When we decided to move to Florida Marita had the great idea to grow the orchids around the pool where it would be bright and humid. I have built three racks out of PVC pipe that have wheels so that the orchids can be easily moved into our lanai and the doors closed on cold nights. That has worked quite well so far although three shelves may be too many since water drips through onto plants below when watering. Some adjustments may be in order. Right now the routine, which seems to be working, is to water them once a week, thoroughly. That takes about a half hour. Then I go around with a bottle of weak fertilizer solution and give each one a small squirt. The theory behind this is to get the roots wet first, allowing them to more easily absorb a small amount of fertilizer when it's applied. I use a balanced formula (10-10-10) for three weeks, and then a bloom booster in the fourth week. Some plants require slightly different care. For example a Den. kingianum gets watered and fertilized with the other plants until the end of summer. Then fertilizer is discontinued and water is also reduced or eliminated as winter comes on. The plant is left outside even in the occasional freezing night. I'm hoping this will induce it to bloom. Catasetinae and rhodocheila get a winter rest, with no water at all until they begin to show new growth. I spray them occasionally to keep them from drying totally, but not much. Because of the many fungal infections that appear to be endemic to Florida, I've begun spraying every other week with a mixture of Cleary's 3336 and Mancozeb, but it's an experiment. The one thing I've found about growing a large number of orchids is that you have to "listen to your plants" and be ready to adjust your treatment according to what they like. Also, they are unlike houseplants in that it may take several weeks for a new treatment to show its effects. So – BE PATIENT!

We currently have around 140 orchids, with a smattering of just about everything. I've probably also killed nearly that many. My rule is, buy a new orchid. If I kill it I may try it again. But if I kill that one too then I stop buying that type. It's hard to say what our favorites are, but some certainly stand out:

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We're proud to have won one AOS award, an 80-point AM in November 2013 for Rhynchovola Jimminey Cricket 'Marita'.

Then there's Blc. Goldenzelle 'Passion', an unusual pink version of this famous hybrid. We got it in an orchid society raffle thinking it was a miniature cattleya. It was very small. After it didn't bloom for two or three years I did some research and discovered it's a full-size cattleya. I moved it to a wooden basket and hung it under the arbor where it promptly began growing like crazy and bloomed the next winter. We also still have the original Burr. Kilauea, although it seems to have developed some kind of fungal infection and is not doing well. It hasn't bloomed in two years but it's still alive and we've divided it several times over the years. Several Tolumnias are also favorites, and are blooming beautifully this winter in Florida. If I go on, I'll probably have to list all of our plants since each is special in its own way. We're true orchid addicts!



Blc. Goldenzelle 'Passion'

One last little piece of information: My true passion is fishing. I will fish anywhere, for anything, using any method. I tie my own flies and have built several custom rods. I often take a fishing rod when I travel on business, and try to sample the fishing in my destination. But my favorite is saltwater fishing from my kayak. The Nature Coast is going to be a wonderful experience, as I learn the convoluted waterways and habits of the local fish. When they're not biting I can always go to an orchid show.....

Rcv. Jimminey Cricket 'Marita' AM/AOS



ORCHIDS THAT LOOK LIKE SOMETHING ELSE

(We will feature one every month)

Caleana major, or the **Flying Duck Orchid**, is a small orchid found in eastern and southern Australia. This terrestrial plant features a remarkable flower, resembling a duck in flight, with its wings swept back and head and beak held high. The head and beak is the labellum of the orchid flower, which is inverted. The labellum is on a trigger mechanism and if an insect lands on the column of the flower, the labellum springs down and traps the insect, forcing it to exit by a set route carrying it past the pollinia and the stigma. The labellum then slowly resets itself to await the next visitor. There is a solitary lanceolate leaf at the base of the stem, dark green liberally sprinkled with pink dots.



Despite the spectacular appearance, this plant is easily overlooked. The flowers and stem are predominantly reddish-brown and the plant merges in with the dry sticks and grass stems and becomes almost invisible. The flower is an attractant to insects, such as male sawflies which pollinate the flower in a process known as pseudo-copulation. In 1986 this orchid was featured on an Australian postage stamp. Occurring from Queensland to South Australia, to even Tasmania, this plant is found in eucalyptus woodland in coastal or swampy shrub land and heath land, mostly near the coast, but occasionally at higher altitudes. Because of the small size, it is a difficult plant to notice in the wild. **Caleana major** has been difficult to maintain in cultivation. Plants flower for one or sometimes two years but progressively weaken until they die. Numerous attempts to grow it anywhere else, this amazing looking flower refuses to propagate in captivity. Apparently that's because the roots have a symbiotic relationship with the vegetative part of a fungus which can only be found in the wild country of eastern and southern Australia.

