



THE KEIKI



Volume 26 Issue 1
January 2018

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Member Survey

Please print out page 14
And fill out member
survey. Bring completed
form to January 20
meeting or e.mail to
Jeff Thanks



<http://www.grossorchids.com/>

Glenn Gross from Gross Orchids in Lakeland will be our January meeting Speaker, on the 20th.

Glenn will be speaking on how to build a greenhouse which will be a short introduction to building a greenhouse. And then his next part of the program will be "Better Orchid Growing Through Chemicals".

Our 1:00 pm January 20th meeting will be at our regular meeting place, VFW Post, Corner Drayton and County Line Rd., Spring Hill

EXECUTIVE BOARD**OFFICERS**

<u>President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President & Past President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Treasurer</u>	Helen Battistrada
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Pat Baig
<u>Recording Secretary</u> (not an elected position)	Matt Riesz

COMMITTEES

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Ken & Delia Dunn
<u>Mailing the Keiki</u>	Tim Smith
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Linda Condon & Arlene Appelbaum
<u>Programs</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Publicity</u>	Julie Smolka
<u>Refreshments</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Trips</u>	Sonia Terrelonge & Laurie Ciannamea
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East

(Website set up by Ken Dunn)

**FOOD:**

Carol Vanderlaan- Brownies

BEVERAGES:

Bobbie LeMay - water

No one filled in anything at the picnic or at the auction. Since I wasn't at the Christmas party my e-mail wasn't caught in time to be brought, so no sign ups in over 3 months. I have 3 - 2 liter sodas leftover from the auction and very few waters.

Please we need volunteers to have some snacks and beverages at our January meeting. I will have the sign up sheet passed around the January meeting that covers meetings through May.

Food / kitchen signup sheets for the April show will also be available in January. If you have any questions about that you may direct them to me.

Thank you.

Mary Lou Mattana

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

By

Helen Battistrada

Beginning Balance :	\$10,635.05
Total Receipts	\$ 200.00
Disbursements:	<u>\$ 718.41</u>
Ending Balance:	\$10,116.64



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Rundell

I'm sitting here watching the temperature dive hoping I've done everything possible to avoid the damage freezing nights might be doing to the all the types of plants I shouldn't be growing. I won't complain after hearing the temperature in my former Adirondack homeland was -32F last night. Even though I'm writing this during the bitter cold by the time you read it I will be in either Panama or Costa Rica providing my ship is still afloat. What's the penalty for smuggling orchids anyway?

It's 2018, the year of the dog, and although it's always comforting to reflect on last year, it should also be a time to move forward. As you'll see in the paragraph below your board is suggesting some changes to help keep our club moving forward. We are always interested in getting new ideas and feedback from members so, at the end of the Keiki, you'll find a 1 page questionnaire that you can print out and turn in at the meeting if you feel so inclined. We are not looking to up root anything, just get your ideas and support.

Orchid Lovers: Your Board has been working toward a number of goals that you may not be aware of. As our membership and treasury have increased one of these issues has become more urgent. Since inception our organization has never had legal "not for profit" (501c3) status. This makes us vulnerable and unable to legally take advantage of a number of benefits not for profit status would convey. Almost all the other orchid societies in our region have had this advantage for years so the time has come for us to move in this direction. Recently your board voted to begin that process and evaluated a number of pro-

viders that could assist us.

Changing things always is challenging but we hope you will support our efforts. Among the issues we have to deal with is what name the organization will use on the incorporation documents. We do not want to have any lingering legal issues following us. We are thinking that incorporating under the name of "Nature Coast Orchid Lovers Society" would have some definite advantages. This would be a more inclusive name given the fact that about 46% of our members live outside of Spring Hill. It might also have some advantages in placing advertising or announcements in a greater variety of media outlets and papers. The change is small but it would make us a new organization legally. Incidentally the Nature Coast is defined as Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, part of Marion (Dunnellon) and several other rural counties up to the big bend. We know there's a lot of history behind our name especially the words Orchid Lovers so we hope that this change will maintain our recognition. Other orchid clubs like Mid Lakes and Florida West Coast also have inclusive names. Shirts and name tags don't really need to change and we will always look at Spring Hill as our home. This is an important matter so if you have any comments you can include them on the questionnaire at the end of the keiki on Page 13 or send me an email and thanks for being an Orchid Lover and supporting our club!

Providing I'm not taken hostage by pirates on my voyage to Central America, stay warm and I'll see you at our January meeting.

Jeff

Update for our January meeting on the 20th.

We now have Glenn Gross from Gross Orchids in Lakeland for our January meeting on the 20th.

Glenn will be speaking on how to build a greenhouse which will be a short introduction to building a greenhouse. And then his next part of the program will be "Better Orchid Growing Through Chemicals".

"This should prove to be extremely Interesting because it will cover insects and growing better plans. I am personally looking forward to this meeting.

Steve Mattana



Gross Orchids is a locally owned and operated orchid nursery with over 15 years' experience growing orchids in Polk County and Central Florida. The focus of our nursery is the beginner looking to obtain their first orchid, and the novice who has a small number of plants with limited experience. We make every effort to answer any and all questions in language that is easily understandable.

We also maintain a full line of orchid potting supplies and will gladly make recommendations to match the right potting medium with the right orchid variety.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR

WHEN I BUY AN ORCHID?

Healthy orchids should have turgid, pest and blemish-free leaves. Many consumers, both retail and retailer, find themselves in a position today of having to make purchase-oriented decisions about an entirely new -- to them, at least -- class of plants: orchids. What should they be looking for? How can the purchase dollar be maximized? How can the best shelf life -- of vital importance for both the retail and retailing consumer -- be obtained?

The Plant should be in proportion to the container, have roots in the media, be clean and unblemished, turgid and medium green, free of visible pests

The Flowers should be lustrous and held well above the foliage on a strong, well-supported spike, be unblemished and free of fungal spotting, have some buds yet to open (never, ever accept a plant with flowers open to the tip of the spike, as it is impossible to judge flower life after all flowers have opened), and have a generally appealing aspect that fits with your decor.

The Vendor - Is the overall aspect one of cleanliness and order? Do the production plants look good? Is the staff attentive and interested in your welfare? Can they answer the most elementary of your questions? Selecting an orchid plant isn't really that different from any other flowering plant purchase, including the satisfaction that comes with the proper decision.

ORQUIDEAS DEL ECUADOR**Next shipments to the USA**

We would like to let you know that we will be at the following shows in the USA in next year:

- .
- February 08-11, 2018. Deep Cut Orchid Show - New Jersey. Deadline for preorders: January 22, 2018.
- February 09-11, 2018. New Hampshire Orchid Society Show 'A Flurry of Orchids' - New Hampshire. Deadline for preorders: January 22, 2018.
- February 23-25, 2018. 66th. Pacific Orchid and Garden Exposition- San Francisco. Deadline for preorders: February 05, 2018.
- March 09-11, 2018. Santa Barbara International Orchid Show - Santa Barbara. Deadline for preorders: February 19, 2018.
- March 23-25, 2018. Asheville Orchid Festival - Asheville. Deadline for preorders: March 05, 2018.
- April 06-08, 2018. SEPOS Show - Philadelphia. Deadline for preorders: March 19, 2018.
- April 14-15, 2019. Houston Orchid Society Show - Houston, TX. Deadline for preorders: March 26, 2017.
- April 21-22, 2018. Oregon orchid Show and Sale - Oregon. Deadline for preorders: April 02, 2017.
- April 28-19, 2018. Mid America Orchid Congress Show - Ohio. Deadline for preorders: April 09, 2017.
- May 18-20, 2018. Redland International Orchid Festival - Miami. Deadline for preorders: April 30, 2017.
- June 01-03, 2018. Long Island Orchid Show - New York. Deadline for preorders: May 14, 2018.

How to reach us:

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Phone: 593-7-2255237
Fax: 593-7-2255236**



Membership Notes January 2, 2018

Happy New Year to all 100+
Orchid Lovers !

It is soooo much colder today than it was when we got together to celebrate the Holidays at our annual Holiday Lunch in December. Our group was a bit smaller than anticipated, but even though we missed those who weren't there, the thirty-eight members who signed in (plus their several guests) had a really great time at Buffet City. There was a lot of laughing that afternoon-it seemed very festive! Twenty lovely orchids were won at the Members Gift Auction. Thanks to Geary Harris and Pat Dupke for collecting the orchids and keeping them happy and healthy until they delivered them to the party. And thanks also to Pat and her husband for bringing the mammoth Toys for Tots cartons which members so generously filled with toys that were to be distributed to children in our area. And thanks to the folks who brought cookies for our traditional dessert table-who'd have imagined we'd love seeing mousies there, on the table, no less? If you don't get that, ask Marita. We did also have fun playing a 'get acquainted' game. Sample question: Who was the tallest kid in the entire school in fifth grade? And here's a prize I forgot to award at the party, so now it's a test. **Are you reading the Keiki? If so, be the first to call me with your name and number at 727-808-3008 to win a free 2018 Club membership.**

Yes, with the new year comes the time to pay our annual membership fees! They are only \$17 per person or \$25 for two people at the same address. Undisputed bargain! Please bring a check, if at all possible-that makes our record keeping easier. If you absolutely must bring cash,

please favor us with the correct change. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Oh, bring all that money to the January meeting at the VFW, County Line Rd and Drayton, at 1 pm Saturday, January 20th!

See you there-remember to bring a friend to receive one free raffle ticket. Meanwhile, try to stay warm!

A WALK IN THE PARK

We found a small jewel of a park, a botanical garden, just off a busy highway in Hillsboro County, and spent a couple of hours relishing the natural beauty of this tranquil spot. It is Eureka Springs Park, comprised of about thirty acres containing boardwalks above clear water, lush tall trees surrounding walking paths, and a delightful greenhouse.

Yes, in the greenhouse, there is a small display of orchids. Even more interesting to me were the various gorgeous ferns, mentioned on one website as "the largest publicly owned collection of ferns in Florida." Better even than any particular plant was the sense of being surrounded by serene natural beauty. The play of light filtering down through layers of leaves and crossed branches was as intricate as lace.

The day we were at Eureka Springs (not a weekend!), there were very few visitors, and the park seemed the perfect place simply to enjoy feeling that we'd discovered a treasure that most folks don't know exists!

For more information and directions see: <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/locations/eureka-springs-conservation-park>



PERSONAL STORY

By Kara Ramsey

I got into growing orchids about 11 years ago. My interest in growing orchids was sprung from my love of the natural sciences and intrigue into the mystique that surrounded orchids. Like many of us my taste in orchids has evolved over the years. My very first orchid was a phalaenopsis type *Dendrobium* orchid that I purchased from Publix. I am happy to report after all these years that I still have my first orchid. It has grown too big to keep inside and it now resides outside within the front entryway to my home. It blooms almost year round with lovely sprays of purple flowers. Initially when I started out growing orchids my orchid collection favored mostly *Phalaenopsis* and standard *Cattleyas*. However, you quickly learn when growing orchids indoors that space by the windowsill is at a premium. You can either enjoy a few large *Cattleyas* or opt for several smaller miniature orchids. I decided to choose the latter. Over the last 7-8 years I have tailored my collection of orchids towards growing almost exclusively *Angraecoids*. For those who are not familiar with the *Angraecoid* alliance, they are a group of orchids consisting of several genera (most notably *Angraecum* and *Aerangis*) that are primarily native to Madagascar, Reunion, and South Africa. I find myself smitten with this group of orchids, captivated by their highly fragrant pure white, often crystalline, star-shaped flowers and unique nectar spurs.

I have three grow areas for my orchids within my home. Two of the areas are comprised of low tables adjacent to windowsills to accommodate potted plants. One window has an eastern exposure and holds several species of *Angraecum* orchids that

are more suited to being grown in pots. Including some of my larger species such as *Ang. sesquipedale* and *Ang. sororium*. The other windowsill grow area is adjacent to a south facing window that receives fairly bright light and houses what remains of my *Cattleya* collection. The third and final grow area is my 4'x2'x3' vivarium that was created for



growing my mounted orchids.

My vivarium was constructed to create a microclimate capable of providing consistent humidity levels of at least 80% for several miniature species of *angraecoid* orchids that do best when grown mounted. The vivarium is a completely automated system. The lighting for the vivarium is provided by a pair of Kessil H150 Purple grow lights. These lights are set to a timer and the length of the daylight adjusted to mimic the seasonal photoperiod. Daily watering is provided to the mounted plants via a MistKing misting system that draws reverse osmosis water from a reservoir. The plants are currently misted with water for 20 seconds at a time during two intervals occurring during the early morning hours. Sufficient air movement is provided to the orchids using three computer fans that are spaced within the vivarium and run 24

(Continued from prior page)

hours a day. Located within the vivarium is a digital hygrometer thermometer, which allows me to monitor the current and daily maximum and minimum humidity and temperature readings. The vivarium plants receive a weak dose of MSU orchid fertilizer on a biweekly basis, added directly into the reservoir for the misting system. Once a month these plants are treated with Physan 20 as a preventative measure to avoid potential fungal problems.

The very first angraecoid that I obtained, the one that started my infatuation with the alliance was *Angraecum sesquipedale*, also referred to as Darwin's orchid.

The scientist in me was intrigued by the tale of Darwin's association with this orchid. For those that do not know the story, when Charles Darwin first received a flowering specimen of this orchid he speculated that the plant must be pollinated by a giant moth with a proboscis of at least 12", capable of accessing the nectar at the base of the long spur. Since no moth with a proboscis of that length was known to science at the time Darwin was disbelieved and often ridiculed for his deduction. It wasn't until twenty-one years after his death that his prediction was proven to be true, and a large hawk moth with a proboscis of just the right length to reach the nectar was discovered. To honor Darwin the moth was given the name *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*. I purchased my *Ang. sesquipedale* as a tiny seedling in a 2" pot 10 years ago. *Angraecums* are notoriously slow growers. My plant took nearly 5 years to reach blooming size under my growing conditions. This orchid is definitely a favorite of mine and one that I look forward to watching bloom each year. It is truly a spectacular sight to behold when in bloom. The large flowers start off a crystalline, greenish-white color when they first

open and then turn a pure white with a heavy, waxy texture after a few days. They are highly scented with a sweet fragrance that is strongest during the early morning hours just past midnight.



My plant blooms regularly each year, usually at the end of January (*pictured here in 2017*) with the flowers typically lasting about three weeks. It is important to take special care when repotting angraecoids, and only repot plants when absolutely necessary as they do not like having their roots disturbed. As I am writing this article now, I am saddened to report that my plant unfortunately will not bloom this winter as it is currently sulking from its repotting earlier this year.

I am fortunate to have among my collection of angraecoids some rare species that are not very common in cultivation. One of the uncommon species that resides within my vivarium is *Angraecum mahavavense*. I obtained this species as a bare root plant about 2 years ago from a nursery that sources orchids from Madagascar. This plant took a few years to acclimate to conditions in the vivarium and bloomed for the first time in May of this year. The timing of the flowers happened to coincide with the monthly AOS judging in Tampa. So I decided to

(Continued from prior page)

bring my plant in for evaluation. At the time of judging my plant had three flowers open and two in bud across two flower spikes. After a long night of judging my orchid received a CHM/AOS of 82 points. In honor of my upcoming nuptials, I assigned the clonal name of 'Glacier View' for the town that I would be getting married at in Alaska. *Ang. mahavavense* is native to the humid, highland forests in the vicinity of the Mahavavy River within northern Madagascar. It is a miniature plant with a short stem that produces 3-5 flowers per inflorescence. The bloom period for this orchid is listed in reference books as being between October – November. However, Fred Hillerman noted in his book *An Introduction to Cultivated Angraecoid Orchids of Madagascar* a bloom period of June – July for his plants, and I observed May with my specimen. When the flowers first open the sepals and petals will be a yellowish color that is quickly lost within a day of the flowers opening up. After being open for a day the flower color will change to ivory with an underlying hue of light green.

This orchid when in bloom will have a charming display of clustered flowers that will last around 2-3 weeks. For those of us who care for such rare beauties it is important to be good stewards to educate others on their cultural requirements and do what we can to promote ex-situ conservation of the species.

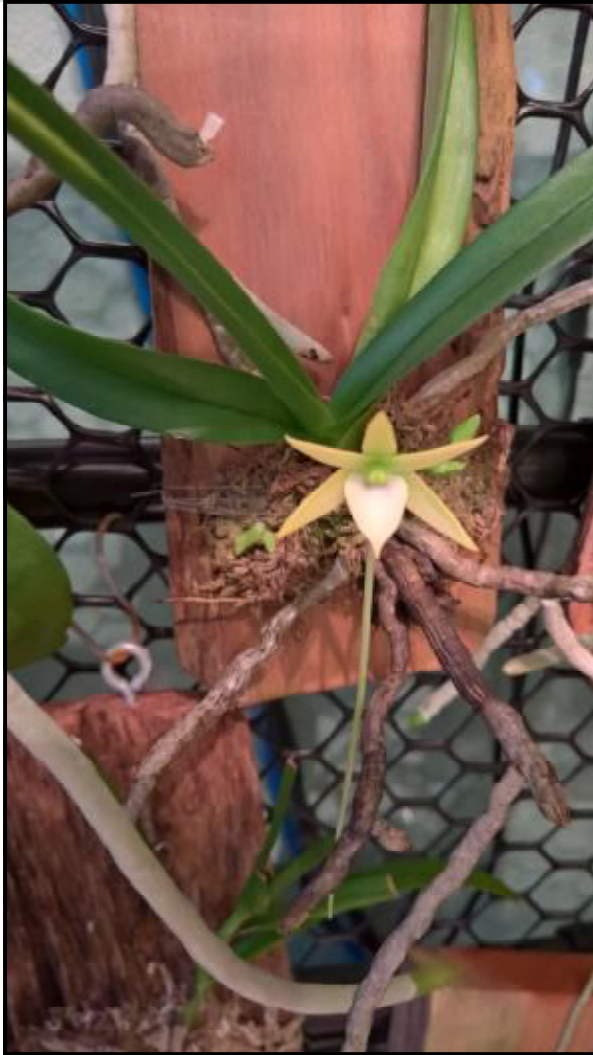
Understanding the specific cultural requirements of certain species is essential in order to grow them successfully. I have learned that it is important to do research into the natural habitat of a species orchid before obtaining the plant in order to ensure that your growing conditions will meet specific needs. One species that I have made a cultural misstep with has been *Ang. magdalenae*. I regrettably did not fully research the precise conditions this

plant needed to thrive before falling in love with the broad and elegant shape of the flowers. It wasn't until later that I learned the native habitat for this species is Madagascar's central plateau where it grows in humus pockets among rocky outcrops and is exposed to strong light and intermediate to cool growing conditions. Needless to say my poor plant languished in the Florida heat. Now aware of its natural habitat, I am currently working towards a solution that might permit me to grow and bloom this species successfully in our Florida heat. One method I am currently looking into is the possibility of growing this species semi hydroponically to provide cooler growing conditions to the root zone of the plant. Until then I will only be able to enjoy the beauty of this species' flowers through a primary hybrid of *Ang. sesquipedale* x *Ang. magdalenae*, which so far seems to be more warmth tolerant.

There is a lot of diversity and much to love about the Angraecoid alliance. If you prefer large and showy orchids, species such as *Angraecum sesquipedale*, *Angraecum longicalar*, *Aerangis ellisii* or *Aeranthes henrici* will certainly not disappoint. There are also several miniature species whose flowers are rather large when compared to the diminutive size of the plant. Some of my favorite miniature angraecoid species with large flowers include *Aerangis fastuosa*, *Aerangis monantha*, *Angraecum urschianum*, and *Angraecum rutenbergianum*. For those looking for something unusual there are quite a few leafless species within the genus *Microcoelia*, including *Microcoelia gilpiniae* which has beautiful bright orange flowers. There is a lot to be learned from this varied and interesting group of orchids.

I intend to continue to expand my angraecoid collection and do what I can to help preserve these unique species ex-situ within my collection.

(pictures on next page



Angraecum mahavavense in bloom May 2017 at AOS judging. Photo by Jim Tear.



VIVARIUM closeup

Angraecum mahavavense in bloom May 2017. Showing yellow color of petals and sepals as flowers are opening.





2017 Orchid Lover's Club Christmas Luncheon







CHECK IT OUT!

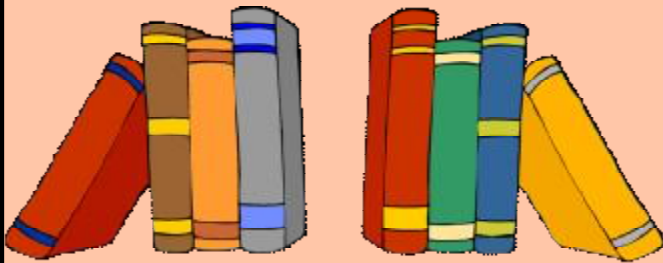
OUR LIBRARY!!!!

Keep your selection for a month! Click on:

www.springhillorchidclub.com

And then click on:

Alphabetical Listing Library Books



I can bring your book selections to the January meeting!

Take care,

*Celeste Ogden,
Librarian*



Can I grow orchids outdoors?

Orchids grow well under trees during frost-free summer months.



Where winters are cold, orchids can be grown on the patio or under trees in the warmer months when frost does not threaten. This is often a wonderful solution for orchid growers in colder climates, and enables the plants to grow so much better than they would if left indoors all year.

Growers in frost-free areas with cooler summer nights (below 60 F in August and after) can grow cymbidiums, one of the finest of all garden orchids. Where summer nights are warmer, many varieties of vandas and cattleya types are appropriate. *(From American Orchid Society Website)*

Did you Know?

Orchid seeds do not have an endosperm which provides nutrients required for germination. Due to this fact all orchids (including non-parasitic forms) live in symbiosis with fungi during germination. Germination can last from a couple of weeks to 15 years.

Orchid Lovers Member Survey:

1. How do you feel about the suitability of our meeting place? (Circle one) Very suitable. OK Not suitable
2. Suggestions for alternate meeting place_____
3. Are there any speakers you enjoyed particularly? _____
4. Do you have any suggestions for speakers?_____
5. How do you feel about the amount we ask for dues? (\$17). Too high. About right. Too low. Suggestions? \$_____
6. How do you feel about the admission charge (\$2) for our show? Too low. About right. Too high. Suggestions? _____
7. How would you feel about changing the name of our club to something more inclusive like "Nature Coast Orchid Lovers Society"? Good idea. Possibly. Need more info. No
8. Should our group (like other orchid clubs) become a 501c3 not for profit organization. Yes. Possibly. Need more info. No
9. Which parts of the Keiki do you enjoy the most? Orchid culture. Personal stories. Speaker notes. Quizzes. Pictures
10. Would you suggest any changes in our meeting agenda? (Reports, Announcements, Refreshments, Show Table, Speaker, Raffle). Suggestions? _____
11. Do you have any suggestions about any of the following:
12. Auction? _____
13. Picnic?_____
14. Christmas Party?_____
15. Considering the blooming times of your orchids during the year, what time of year would be best for our show?_____
16. Suggestions for club trip?_____.
- 11.. Would you be interested attending "hands on" workshop meetings held midway between our regular meetings that might provide experiences with things like: dividing orchids, compots, mounting, judging, flasking or other topics? Definitely. Possibly. Probably not
12. Would you be interested in any orchid club themed clothing including. Shirts. Hats. Decals. Greeting cards
13. Should we make a small donation to orchid conservation? Yes. No.
14. Are you interested in sharing in group purchase of any of the following? Orchiata. Perlite. Rock. Aliflor. Moss. Pots. Other___
15. Any thoughts you'd like to share or areas you'd like to volunteer for?

Please print out the form above and fill it out along with comments. You can bring the completed form to the meeting Saturday or e.mail it to Jeff. If you need additional space use the back of the printout sheet.

This is an important matter. Thanks for being an Orchid Lover and supporting our Club.