



THE KEIKI



Volume 34
Issue 4
April 2025



Next Meeting



April 26- Ryan Kowalczyk will present a program on Paphiopedilum & Phragmipedium culture. He is an accredited AOS judge & has been growing orchids for 40 years. He specializes in growing Cattleyas, Catasetums & Paphs. He's received 175 AOS awards on his orchids; most were quality awards. He's also won 5 of the special yearly awards given internationally by the AOS. He'll most certainly be able to teach us how to grow our Paphs & Phrags. He will be bringing plants for sale.

New meeting location and date!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Spring Hill,

13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609

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President's Message



Hi everyone,

Welcome to April. I sincerely hope we've seen the last of those deep temperature drops, as I'm getting tired of the "orchid shuffle". As the days get longer and the temperatures warmer our orchids will respond by putting on new growth. So now is the time to start re-potting any that need it. If you divide a large plant please consider keeping a couple of divisions for our auction in August. By that time they will have become well established in their new pots and be prime for making someone very happy!

Next month is our annual show, with preparations well on the way. It will be another great show, I'm sure, and we have nine terrific vendors signed up to bring us great plants. Thank you to everyone who's already volunteered to help out with the show. There are always many jobs to be done, from small to large, and for most of them you do not need to be an expert orchid grower. There are still a few open slots, and we'll have signup sheets at our next meeting on April 26th. We have some special features at our show this year, including:

Daily presentations about orchids and orchid growing

Special sticker books for kids who attend

Punch cards for a special raffle for any visitor who visits all our vendors. One winner per day, you don't have to be present to win.

This is an AOS-judged show, so if you have special plants that you'd like judged you can bring them and we'll place them in our display. That said, we need as many plants as we can get for the display and they need not be AOS-award-worthy to help make the display beautiful. If you have plants you will be bringing it would be VERY helpful for me to have a list of them before the show. I will have some papers at the next meeting that you can use to make your list. You can send your lists to me via email at mrfishnj@gmail.com or just bring the filled-out sheet with you to our setup on May 2nd.

Speaking of the meeting on the 26th, we'll have Ryan Kowalczyk talking to us about Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums ("paphs" and "phrags"), which you CAN grow here in Florida. Ryan is an AOS judge with many awards for his great plants, so this promises to be an excellent program!

Hope to see you all on the 26th, and to see your many beautiful flowers on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

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>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Treasurer</u>	Herbert May
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Cheryl Crilly
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u>	Cheryl Crilly
(not an elected position)	
<u>Trustees</u>	Jeff Rundell
	Jeanne Montgomery

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2025

Updated as of 4/01/2025

May 3 & 4 - Our Annual Orchid Show & Sale. More info to come at the April meeting, sign up sheets for helping out at the show too. Setup for the show is on **Friday the 2nd**.

May 24– Annual potting workshop. Garden Trails will be selling supplies.

June 28- June 28- How to Build a Quality Orchid Collection by Jeff Adkins.

July 26- Jim Roberts is coming to talk to us about Encyclias, an easy & fun to grow group of orchids.

August 23- Our annual orchid auction!

Sept. 27– Melana and Jim Davidson will teach us about growing and blooming Catasetum orchids.

Oct. 25– Annual picnic at Crews Lake Park.

Nov. 22-Keith Emig of Winter Haven Orchids, will talk about Vandaceous Orchids other than Vandas. He will teach us about the unusual orchids in that genus; Aerides, Angraecoid, Neofinetia, Renanthes & Rhynchostylis. He will be bringing orchids to sell.

December- Our annual Holiday party.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMITTEES

<u>Auction Chair</u>	Susan Kimmel
<u>Show Chair</u>	Bob East
<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>E-mail Coordinator</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Historian</u>	Nancy Huff
<u>Membership</u>	Carol Siegley
<u>Publicity</u>	Pam Crisman
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Annie Aierstock
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Sunshine Greetings</u>	Gertie Messenger
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Denise Provencher
<u>Trips</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Webmaster</u>	Bob East
	(Website set up by Ken Dunn)
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

Membership Notes

by Carol Siegley

Current Membership is 81.

Orchid Sniffing Dogs?

Yes! Specially trained dogs are being used at the Desert Botanical Garden in Arizona to help find rare and endangered orchids. Canelo Hills ladies-tresses orchid (*Spiranthese delitescens*) is one of these scarce orchids.

The orchid grows in a rare desert wetland environment of the Southwest called a cienegas. Humans can't find these plants due to the very dense vegetative environment that they grow in, and their very short bloom period. However, the dogs, with their powerful sense of smell, are able to detect them, even when they are not in bloom.

To read the full story, go to the link below:

<https://dbg.org/researcher-dogs-are-helping-the-garden-find-these-rare-and-endangered-arizona-orchids>

Below:

Circe and Muon, two very special canines, along with the Canelo Hills ladies-tresses orchid

Photos: Eirini Pajak



Picture Raffle Winner

The winner of the first Picture Raffle contest is Nancy Huff, holding the beautiful Phalanopsis that was this raffle's prize.

See information below to enter into the raffle, and have a chance to win!



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!!)

Best wishes for happy orchids!

Matt Riesz

March Speaker

Write-up by Denise Provencher

Renovation & Repopulation; Bringing Native Orchids Back.



At the March meeting, Mike Sands spoke about the critically important work that is being done in the restoration of the Everglades, and that includes re-introducing native orchids.

Mike is a certified horticulturalist, and Master Naturalist, and the owner of Tangled Roots Orchid nursery in Loxahatchee. He was involved in the replacement of over 3000 orchids in the renovation & repopulation of the Everglades destroyed by the Army Corp of Engineers from efforts during the late 1800s into the 1960s to make South Florida more habitable for people. These efforts helped development, but sharply reduced the natural water flow of the Everglades critical to its survival.

The restoration project required an amazing level of work, starting with the removal of invasive species that had infiltrated the delicate natural habitat of the Everglades. Such invasives included the Old World climbing fern, and the Brazilian pepper. Part of this effort included pumping large amounts of water back into the area to help smother the invasives, and bring back the wetland environment needed for native species to survive.

Larger species of plants such as trees and shrubs were introduced back into the wetland. These plants grow to provide a canopy. These included red cedar, south Florida slash pine, pond cypress, red maple, swamp dogwood, pop ash, silver palmetto, Florida privet, elderberry, gallberry, and beauty berry. Smaller plants include Shiny Blueberry, tarflower, scrub milkweed, whorled milkweed, pennyroyal, swamp lily, blue iris, duck potato, rushes, pickerel weed, and ferns to round out the new plantings.

Native species of orchids were finally brought into the restored environment. The plants were mounted into position on trees using burlap and twine. These are natural materials that will decompose. Some orchids were mounted by simply cramming them in a crack. This may work better than mounting, as crevices in trees often contain everything an orchid needs to grow and thrive.

Mike points out that the pop ash is the host for the Ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*). Also, when mounting *Encyclia Tampensis*, try to use an oak younger than 10 years old as the special mycorrhiza is present at its strongest on the younger trees. Pennyroyal has a symbiotic relationship with the Dancing Lady orchid (*Oncidium*).

The project has been a wonderful success, as native wildlife has returned. Numerous birds, fish, otters, turtles, rabbits, raccoons, and others are now moving back in. There is even an albino catfish!

Mike's experience growing orchids is amazing. Some great tips include:

When fertilizing, use a fertilizer that contains all the micro-nutrients, not just the standard NPK. Orchids like and need the minor elements as well. Even a palm-fertilizer can be used, just read the label to be sure it contains the minor elements.

Slow release granular fertilizer can be hung in a bag over your orchid pot, so it is released when you water.

Check your water PH; for best nutrient absorption the PH should be between 5.5—6.5.

Keep your plants fed and happy. Healthy plants are much more resistant to insects and diseases. Stressed plants give off a pheromone that attracts bugs.

If your white flowers get spots on them, use a gallon of water with one teaspoon of baking soda dissolved into it once a month to eliminate the spots.

Mike uses thermal bulbs, such as would be used to keep baby chicks warm, to warm his greenhouse on cold nights. The infra red heat produced can reach 130 degrees. Using several of these can provide sufficient warmth for the whole greenhouse.

When mounting orchids, use biodegradable materials, such as twine or burlap, as these will safely decompose. Don't use materials such as metal wire, zipties, tape, or nylon string. These take too long to break down, and can damage the orchid or even the tree.

Sources for native plants in Central Florida:

Orchids in Bloom—Apopka

<https://www.orchidsinbloom.net/>

Green Isle Gardens—Groveland

<https://www.greenislegardens.com>

The Natives Nursery—Davenport

<https://www.thenatives.net/>

To reach Mike Sands:

TRorchidnursery@icloud.com

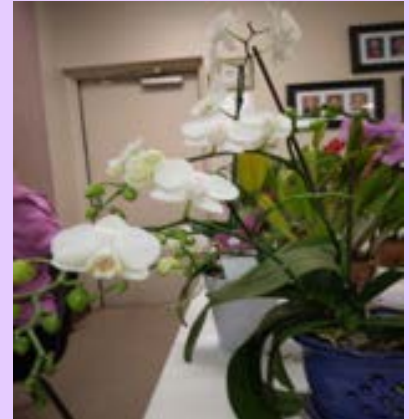
	A	B
1	NCOS Show Table 3-22-2025	
2	Plant Name	Grower
3	Ctt. Memoria Cynthia Taylor	Susan Kimmel
4	Den. aggregatum	Randy Dugan
5	Den. lichenastrum 'Australia'	Matt Riesz
6	Rhynchostylis retusa	Randy Dugan
7	Pinalia mysorensis	Matt Riesz
8	Rth. Star Fire 'Ruby Red' x Rth. Love Passion 'Island Romance'	Bella Roberts
9	Rth. Golden D'or (this is likely mis-tagged)	Marta Menendez
10	Cyclopogon lindleyana 'Joyce Constance' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz
11	Den. Angel Moon 'Love letter'	Matt Riesz
12	Den. Red Emperor	Susan Kimmel
13	Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'	Susan Kimmel
14	Den. Red Senator	Matt Riesz
15	Guarianthe guatemalensis	Susan Kimmel
16	Guaritionia Why Not	Jackie Morse
17	Rth. Lily Marie Almas 'MGR' AM/AOS	Matt Riesz
18	C. lueddemaniana	Bella Roberts
19	Bulb. sumatranum x sib - (accepted species is Bulb. lobbii)	Doris Keyser
20	Robiquetia cerina 'Yellow'	Matt Riesz
21	Guaritionia Why Not	Kristine Stewart
22	Rlc. Royal Digs	Matt Riesz
23	Phal. Mini Lemon Drops 'Sweetheart'	Matt Riesz
24	Phal. Hybrid	Jackie Morse
25	Phal. Hybrid	Jackie Morse
26	Phal. Hybrid	Jackie Morse
27	Den. Red Emperor	Kristine Stewart
28	Den. delicatum	Bella Roberts
29	Phal. Hybrid	Jackie Morse
30	C. Amethystaglossa	Randy Dugan

March Show Table—photos by Bryon Provencher

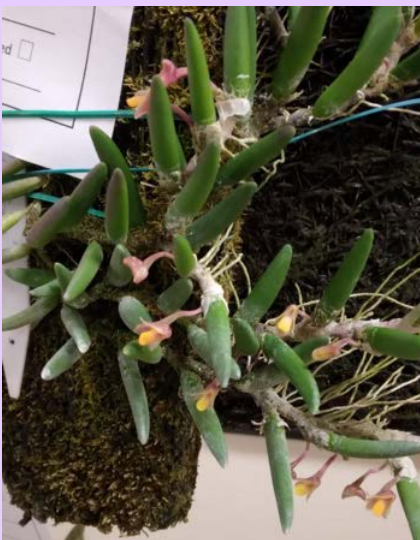


Rth. Lily Marie Almas 'MGR' AM/AOS

Den. delicatum



Phal. Hybrids



Den. lichenastrum 'Australia'

Den. Red Emperor



Rlc. Royal Digs



Phal. Mini Lemon Drops 'Sweetheart'



C. lueddemaniana



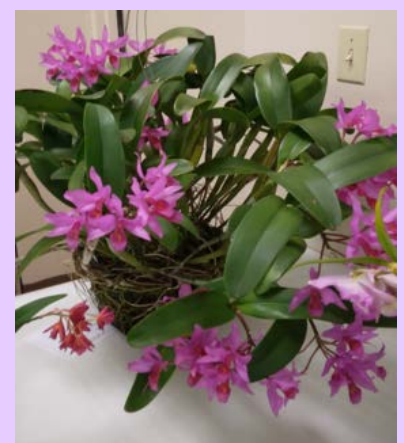
Guaritonia Why Not



Bulb. sumatranum x sib - (accepted species is *Bulb. lobbii*)



Robiquetia



Guarianthe guatemalensis



Den. Red Senator



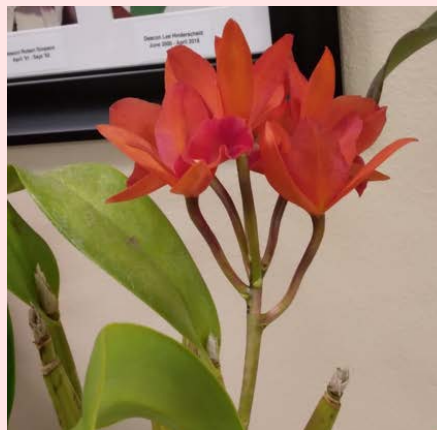
Den. Red Emperor



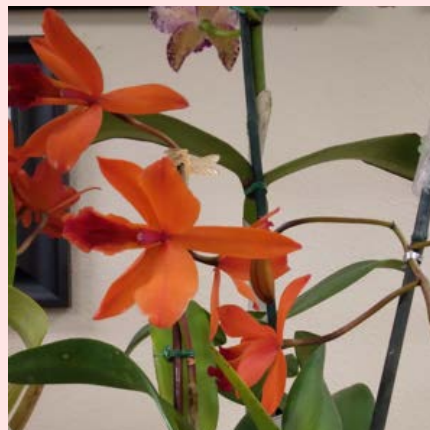
Den. Sea Mary 'Snow King'



Den. Angel Moon 'Love letter'



Rth. Golden D'or (this is likely mis-tagged)



Rth. Star Fire 'Ruby Red' x Rth. Love Passion 'Island Romance'



C. Amethystiglossa



Ctt Mem 'Cynthia Taylor'



Den. Aggrodatum

Bottom row: *Pinalia mysorensis*

Rhy. Retusa dark

Cyclopogon lindleyana 'Joyce Constance' AM/AOS



Past Speaker Article 8/20/2011

Louis Del Favero of Louis Del Favero Orchids—Tampa

Louis Del Favero, our August speaker, was introduced by Ed Bugbee. Louis is very well known to Club members as he has spoken to us on many occasions and is one of our vendors at our annual shows. We have taken occasional bus trips to his nursery by the same name on Gant Rd. in Tampa. Louis' topic was miniature orchids; they are his favorite and he has been growing miniatures since he was a teenager. He says that if he had a collection just for himself it would consist of species and miniatures. He is recommending a good reference book called 'Miniature Orchids' by Rebecca Northen.

He spoke about miniatures mainly of Eastern origin and brought with him quite a selection to show us. He brought several back with him after visiting the Japanese orchid show in Tokyo many years ago. One of them, a very pretty little classic Japanese species, *Neofinetia falcata*, sometimes called the Japanese Wind Orchid, grows on the islands of Japan is a monopodial with alternating terete leaves and a similar growth pattern to Vandas. It has variegated foliage and is grown as much for this as for the pretty little white flowers with a fragrance much sweeter and stronger than would be expected from such a small plant. Admiring its beautiful variegated leaves, the Japanese people didn't care whether or not the plant ever bloomed. It tends to stay small, generally less than 6" in height. may grow on rocks, but is usually found growing epiphytically on rather small branches of deciduous trees where strong light is received in winter and early spring. Plants normally grow at an angle on the branch so that water drains away and does not collect at the base of the leaves. It prefers a well draining mix and may be grown on a bright windowsill or under fluorescent lighting.



Neofinetia falcata

Louis picked up some larger varieties on a visit to Okinawa and had one of the same species but a different variety in a tapered redwood basket, *Neo. falcata 'Snow Crane'*, which was extra fragrant and could take colder weather. He'd been growing it for two years in which time it had produced more plants. He said he likes to collect different color forms. Some of these Japanese miniatures used to cost thousands of dollars each and many years ago at a Tokyo show he paid the high price of \$120 for a miniature and he was headed next to Hawaii and had to go through Customs so he separated his new purchase into pieces, and put each piece into a pocket. Fortunately he was not given a body search and got his plant through, albeit in pieces. Others shipped their plants in their luggage and got searched and their plants confiscated. He said prices have come down a lot in recent years.

Miniatures can grow very quickly and they respond well if grown in sphagnum moss; he suggests always using good quality sphagnum as it will last even longer than bark and he changes his out every two years. These plants can take fairly high light but not as strong as Vandas or Dendrobiums and they need to be watered every day. Louis has some Korean clones of the same species mounted on tree fern plaques that need water every day.

Louis uses clay pots with sphagnum as it cools the roots as the moss dries. Plastic pots keep the roots too hot. Cool air from a fan will keep the sphagnum cool. (*For those who are interested in the *Masdevallia* species Ed recommended searching for warm growing orchids for Florida and the software program, *Orchid Wiz*, is a great source of information.*) It is not advisable to purchase plants that you know are grown up north in a cold climate or another country because their temperatures would not have been the same as that of Florida. When you buy from a local grower ask them where the plant originated and if it had been acclimated to your area.

Louis showed us a tiny mounted species native to Taiwan, *Haraella retrocalla*. It loves to grow in small pots in the same light as a *Phalaenopsis*, with a well drained mixture, or on slabs. Flowers are fragrant and it can bloom 2 to 4 flowers on one spike.

Another genus is *Ornithocephalus*, which means 'bird head', which have more than 50 species found in tropical America. They have elegant fan shaped leaves that are great to look at even when not in bloom. The plant grows upside down and has little tiny white flowers. The species pictured here is *Orcp. Bicornis*. They need shady conditions with warm temps. They do best mounted on cork or tree fern fibers and prefer to be dried out between watering.

Some species he can take a cutting from and they'll root and make a new plant. At the point the pot is overflowing he divides them up. When growing in baskets these plants like to be well watered or saturated and then allowed to dry. Generally yellow orchids are 'warm growing', meaning they prefer warmth. He showed us several more of his miniatures, some of them so small and mounted, good for window sills as they take up little space and they are all watered daily at this time of year:



A tiny little mounted plant resembling a cluster or a clump with lots of color, was the hot to warm-growing *Schoenorchis fragrans* a little one that rarely reaches even 2" across yet produces a great show of tiny fuschia pink flowers that open in succession in the summer. It has a terrific fragrance and grows in the same light as *Phalaenopsis*, with warm conditions and even moisture.

Schoenorchis fragrans

And his *Ornithophora radicans* has an amazing fragrance. Leaves up to 7" long; greenish-white/yellow flowers with cream colored lips, appear in fall; grown on bark slabs, or in slatted baskets in filtered light and high humidity.

To emphasize the popularity of miniatures, Ed added that he knew a man up north who loved orchids and was building a greenhouse to house large orchids. He kept his miniatures in the house and ended up with 500 in the area of his two bay windows. By the time the greenhouse was finished, however, he ended up filling it completely with miniatures!

Louis showed a *Maxillaria variabilis* planted in tree fern for good drainage - as the name implies, it has a variable floral color. The plants spread by erect rhizomes. As with most members of the *Maxillarias*, they are easy to grow. They should never be allowed to dry thoroughly during their short rest period because the small pseudobulbs are easily damaged from extended drought conditions.



Pleurothallis grubyi is a very graceful tiny species from Peru. The flowers are light yellow and only about 3/16" tall. Louis had his mounted and overall plant height, is only 4". Warm-Intermediate grower. All these miniatures do well mounted as they grow on trees in their natural state.

This species needs warmth and humidity, and bright light and frequent mistings to be truly happy. It grows on oak trees and in wet rainforests from sea level to 1180 feet.

Pleurothallis grubyi

Ed showed a plant from the Raffle Table, a miniature ***Dendrobium rigidum*** (intermediate grower), found in mangrove swamps, on trees and rocks along riverbeds. Pseudobulbs usually 1-2" tall grow in spreading clumps often with a climbing then a pendulous habit. The blooms are cream colored with red/orange striping, about 1/2" in size. The flowers are fragrant and the plants are in bloom every time you turn around, a bonus for those with small collections. They like humidity typical for Dens, watering thoroughly, not allowing the media to completely dry. Reducing slightly in winter and no rest needed. Can be grown on horizontal mounts rather than in pots.

Nanodes schlechterianum or (N. discolor) or (Common Name: Schlechter's Epidendrum), native to Panama, is named after a German botanist and taxonomist from the early 20th century. An Intermediate grower with many leaves, it has short reed-like stems that develop at the top of mature stems and 1-3 tiny 1 ¼" flowers are produced on the short flower stem. The flowers are greenish brown with a pinkish brown lip. It is best grown on a cork slab as this plant was, and the flowers seemed to blend in with the color on the slab. It needs to be hung where it gets good air movement bright light and frequent mistings. This species needs warmth and humidity to be truly happy. It grows on oak trees and in wet rainforests from sea level to 1180 feet.

*For those of us not familiar with **miniature orchids**, Louis gave us a great introduction to the subject and if you want further information or pictures you can search online any of the names in his talk. And these plants can be seen & purchased at Louis del Favero Orchids at 6601 Gant Rd., Tampa 33625. (813) 961-8277.*

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	March 05, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	April 03, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	April 16, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EDT	May 08, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Why Won't It Bloom? Explore reasons why your orchid fails to bloom. <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 02</i>	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by March 31</i>	Growing Orchids Indoors and In Terrariums Light, media, pots! What it takes to successfully cultivate orchids indoors.	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by May 05</i>
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Chris Satch Orchid Grower and Professor at NY Botanical Gardens	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer



Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.

Use the WEBINAR Display Filter

Join Us in Welcoming Spring to Florida with the
Apopka International
Spring Orchid Festival

April 11-13, 2025 • 9:00am-5:00pm

AOS JUDGING: 10:00am Saturday April 12 at Krull-Smith Nursery
ALL ARE WELCOME! • FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING!

Featuring Top-Quality Vendors from Around the World:

Afri Orchids	Ingram's Better Orchid Books	Scented Diva
AWZ Orchids	Kanjarin Greens	Springwater Orchids
Blumen Insel	Mac's Orchids	Sunset Valley Orchids
Blue Ridge Orchids	Mainshow Orchids	Walpole Orchids
Bredren Orchids	Miranda Orchids	Wilson Orchids
Cactus & Exotics	OFF	
Ching Hua Orchids	Orchid Eros	
Gold Country Orchids	Orchidabilia	
Hang-a-pot	Paph Paradise	

Sponsored and Hosted by
Krull & Smith

Location: Krull-Smith Nursery
 2800 W Ponkan Rd • Apopka, FL 32712
 Tel: (407) 886-4134 • orchids@krullsmith.com • www.krullsmith.com



Mid-Lakes Orchid Society

Spring Orchid AUCTION

April 12, 2025

Venetian Gardens – Rogers Park
 Entrance on 9th Street off of Alternate 44
 610 South 9th Street
 Leesburg, FL

Free Admission
 Everyone is welcome and bring a friend to join the fun!

Plant Preview Starts at 12:00pm
Auction Starts at 1:00pm - Ends by 4:00
 Orchids and Orchid Related items for Auction – Cash/Check/Charge
 ~ Light Refreshments will be provided ~

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 Gertie Messenger at choclabs@att.net.

Member Name Tags

If you would like one of the wonderful name tags available to members, please contact Carol at: carolbohning@yahoo.com
Cost per name tag is approximately \$9.00 per tag. Exact cost to be determined when the order is put in.