



THE KEIKI



Volume 34
Issue 2
February 2025



Next Meeting

February 15- Naoki Kawamura - Coryanthes Orchids and hybrids. Learn how to grow & bloom this unique & intriguing orchid. Naoki's introduction to orchids started with buying a Phalaenopsis, then a few days later he decided he needed a Dendrobium, we all know how this story goes. He started by growing orchids under grow lights in Oregon to now growing on his pool deck in Venice. Naoki begun working on becoming an AOS judge in 2020 & is coming to share his love & knowledge of orchids with us. Naoki does not have an orchid nursery so members are invited to bring 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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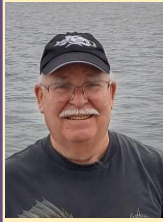
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President's Message



Hi everyone,

To begin with, a reminder: If you haven't yet paid your dues for 2025, please do it now. You can bring cash or a check to our next meeting on February 22nd, or send a check payable to Nature Coast Orchid Society to:
Carol Siegley
402 1st Ave SW
Lutz, FL 33548

Next, as I mentioned at our January meeting, we need a new person to handle publicity for us. That involves getting our monthly meetings into local publications and advertising our special events like our show in May and auction in August. Gertie Messenger has been handling all this for a while now but is no longer able to do it. She has a whole scheme set up and will work with whoever takes over from her to make sure you know what to do. Most of the work is computer-based, so knowing how to access social media and use a computer is important. PLEASE, if you can possibly help us out with this then contact me via email at mrfishnj@gmail.com.

Wasn't January's weather great for orchids? NO, it was NOT. Mine spent several weeks inside my lanai trying to keep warm. But they didn't get the light they really needed. Nonetheless, they seem to have all survived and thrived and are very happy to be back outside now that temperatures have moderated. I hope yours have survived too! Mine seem to have attracted a lot of scale insects this year, so keep an eye out for them and treat when you find them. When they first appear they look like fuzzy white areas; later on they form the scale coverings and you may see discolored spots on leaves. Look especially at the leaf axils on Cattleya types, as well as inside the papery coverings on the pseudobulbs. They love to hide there. I use a systemic insecticide that contains imidacloprid. Probably any systemic will do, but contact insecticide is ineffective because they're hidden where it can't reach them.

Now is the time to be watching your plants for new inflorescences and staking them as they emerge so that they put on their best show when they bloom. This is especially true for Phalaenopsis as their inflorescences are emerging and growing. Start staking them when they get about 5 or 6 inches long, and remember to always keep them facing the same way in relation to the light. Once the spike starts producing buds, stop staking a little below the first bud so that the buds lay nicely along the spike once they open.

Your soft-cane Dendrobiums (Nobile-type) may be starting to show buds along the canes. Once the buds are visible there you can start giving them some water. I don't feed them though, until the buds have clearly formed and are starting to emerge. If you feed too soon you may get keikis instead of flowers.

Happy growing, and see you at our next meeting, where Naoki Kawamura will talk about Coryanthes. He will not have plants for sale, so members are free to bring their own for sale.

Matt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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<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
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	(Website set up by Ken Dunn)
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2025

Updated as of 2/01/2025

March 15- Mark Sands will present “Renovation & Repopulation”. Bringing native orchids back. Mike is 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. He specializes in bi-folate cattleyas & will be bringing plants for us to buy & will also have decomposing pots & a fertilizer that he developed that has had a built-in fungicide.

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.

May 2 & 3 - Our Annual Orchid Show & Sale

May 24- TBA

June 28- TBA

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- TBA

Oct. 25- TBA

Nov. 25-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, Renantheta & Rhynchostylis. He will be bringing orchids to sell.

December- Our annual Holiday party.

Membership Notes

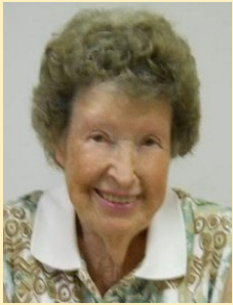
by Carol Siegley

Welcome new members!

Our total membership is now 164.

In Memoriam

Helen Battristrada Memorial from Delia Dunn



She was our Club Treasurer for many years and did a wonderful job – she was not a Charter Member but joined within a year or two after our beginning – she was very detailed and took great care of the finances and always had a perfect report to give us. For many years, and living alone, she had not been able to look after large orchids so had only a few small orchids but she loved the Club and stayed active as a member and took great pride in our treasury's growth and helping at our shows and other events. She was 94 when she retired from the Club and we kept her on the Executive Board in an Advisory capacity so she would still have a title, (we just knew she'd miss us) although I don't think she ever came back to a meeting or a board meeting.

In the June 2018 issue of the Keiki, Membership Chairman, Linda Condon, wrote:

“We had the presentation of the slate of officers and the election by Delia Dunn. The installation is to be at the June meeting. It was announced that Helen Battistrada, our faithful and diligent Treasurer, is going to step down after serving for 2 decades in that post: we are so grateful to Helen for her unselfish gifts of time and knowledge, and capabilities. Hopefully she has inspired us all to not just sit there, but get up off our...chairs and do something proactive for the club!! Thankfully, Helen has agreed to stick around and act as kind of a senior advisor. Thank you, Helen!”

The *Beautiful*, the **Unique**, and the *Weird*

Nick Rust

Nick Rust was back for the Club's January meeting, discussing some of his favorite types of orchids, and their care. Orchidaceae is potentially the largest flowering plant group with over 800 genera, 28,000 species, and well over 100,000 hybrids. There is always a beautiful orchid to please anyone.

Many orchid growers have started their orchid growing journey with a store bought Phalaenopsis. These make good starter plants as they are easy care, needing low-medium light, and water 1-2 times per week. Sphagnum moss or a mix of sphagnum and bark will suit these plants just fine, depending on your watering habits.

The Cattleya Alliance, which also includes Encyclia, Epidendrum, Laelia, Brassavola, and others, are all beautiful choices with similar care requirements. The variety of color and size of flower is just unbelievable, as is the diversity. Most are very easy to care for, with bright light, watering 1– 2 times week, and planting in a 50/50 mix of bark and moss, or even just bark if you water heavily.

The Oncidium Alliance, which also includes, Brassia, Miltonia, Tolumnia, and others, have an amazing choice of colors and patterns. They don't like drying out, so prefer plenty of sphagnum in their mix, and like being watered 3-4 times per week. They prefer medium light. Tolumnia doesn't like to be too wet, and likes a brighter light. If they are mounted, they like watering every 1-2 days, if potted in course bark, water every 2-3 days.

The Vanda Alliance. Nick likes the smaller ones. Vandas like to be watered daily, and get bright, full sun, and high humidity. Keep in mind the headroom you will need to grow a long rooted variety. There has to be plenty of room for all those roots to hang down.

Dendrobiums can be a great choice. There are very small ones, and absolutely huge varieties. They like medium to bright light, water 1—2 times per week and 25-75 mix of sphagnum moss and bark.

The Unique

Cypripedium, Paphiopedilums, Mexipedium, etc. the Lady Slipper type orchids. Many have mottled leaves, nice flower colors, and terrestrial in growth habit. They prefer acidic, piney soil and are very easy to kill. They like low dappled light, don't like to dry out, and watering must be deep and thorough.

No talk by Nick would be complete with a discussion on Habenaria alliance Orchids, the bird orchids. This includes Cynorkis, Pecteilis, Bonatea, etc. Their brilliant colors are a real attention grabber. They prefer low to medium light, and water 2 –3 times per week. They are also terrestrial orchids, liking a well-draining, peaty/perlite, bark, and charcoal mix. They also go dormant, and require no water during this time to mimic their natural environment.

Other unique orchids include the Stanhopea, that bloom from the bottom of the pot. Challenging to grow, they must be hung in a mesh basket , and not allowed to dry out.

Catasetums are certainly unique with their outstanding fragrances, and the fact that male and female are separate plants.. They do go dormant.

The Weird

Bulbophyllum, the largest and most diverse genus with 3000 species, is one of the first to come to mind when thinking weird. With flowers that range from teenie-tiny to large, some with long tails, and incredible shapes, weird fits them well.

Porpax—with funky flowers that look like baby birds is one of Nick's favorites. These epiphytic orchids require low-medium light, a 50/50 mix, and water 3-4 times a week. They can form nice mats.

Two General Culture Secrets for all Orchids:

- 1) Always use a good medium. Orchiata or NZ bark or Kiwi bark as examples. Cheaper ones break down too quickly.
- 2) Air flow— using fans in critical for Nick as he grows his plants indoors in Georgia, but the goal is to keep water from setting on the leaves and causing fungal problems.

NCOS Show Table 1-25-2025	
Plant Name	Grower
Rlc. Mem. Claus Graff 'Raphael' x Rlc. Chia Lin 'New City'	Susan Kimmel
Ctna. Sugita Spots x C. Mark Jones	Matt Riesz
Rth. Jhong Sin Panda 'Kinmen'	Bella Roberts
Bc. Angel Lace 'Breckenridge' AM/AOS	Susan Kimmel
Pleurothallis hamosa x self	Susan Kimmel
Den. peguanum	Cheryl Crilly
Potinara Koolau Starbright 'Elizabeth'	Susan Kimmel
Onc. Twinkle Pink Profusion	Susan Kimmel
Ludisia discolor - green form	Matt Riesz
Phal. Tristar Peoker	Matt Riesz
Bsn. Playa Adicora	Matt Riesz
Lc. Emma Anne Henderson 'Barbara'	Matt Riesz
Rlc. Young Kong 'Sun 16'	Bella Roberts



Rth. Jhong Sin Panda 'Kinmen'

February Show Table—photos by Matt Riesz



Bc. Angel Lace 'Breckenridge' AM-AOS



Bsn. Playa Adicora



Ctna. Sugita Spots x C. Mark Jones



Den. peguanum



Lc. Emma Anne Henderson 'Barbara'



Ludisia discolor - green form



Onc. Twinkle Pink Profusion



Phal. Tristar Peoker



Pleurothallis hamosa x self



Pot. Koolau Starbright 'Elizabeth'



Rlc. Mem. Claus Graff 'Raphael' x Rlc. Chia Lin 'New City'



Rlc. Young Kong 'Sun 16'

PAST SPEAKER SEGMENT July 16, 2011

by Delia Dunn



BILL NUNEZ, our speaker for the July meeting, was introduced by Ed Bugbee. Bill is otherwise known as the Rhizome Cowboy and is a long term member and Officer of the Florida West Coast Orchid Society in Tampa. He's done a lot of work with water quality and breeding and worked with many others on breeding. He enjoys creating new hybrids and is knowledgeable about many orchids. Bill said his Grandfather grew orchids and he himself has been growing them since he was 15. He enjoys bringing humor into whatever he is talking about and his slides are punctuated with comic characters to illustrate a point.

Bill gave an informative and humorous slide presentation of orchid propagation and orchid flasking, which is the process of growing orchids from seed, giving us first a brief history of some of the legends and adventures surrounding the discovery of orchids, what started the orchid frenzy and how the later orchid craze caused the burning of forests and jungles so others would not be able to find the valuable plants that others traveled far and wide to obtain.

Originally there were various methods of trying to propagate orchids or germinate orchid seeds but nothing was successful until * the first scientific studies on orchid **mycorrhiza** were done by the French scientist, Noel Bernard. In May 1899 he discovered orchid seeds germinating under a log in a forest. Bernard realized that the seedlings contained mycorrhizal fungi and they depended on the fungi for nutrition. In the following years Bernard germinated the seeds of many orchid species and conducted numerous experiments. He discovered that the relationship is specific and only certain fungi are able to stimulate the growth of seedlings. If the millions of seeds of one plant didn't hit the mycorrhizal fungus all the seeds may as well be thrown away. As the plants mature the fungus is digested, its usefulness completed.

In artificial culture, a special technique is necessary, involving nutrient agar gels, various metallic salts and cane sugar, which seems to make up for the lack of the mycorrhiza and its chemical excretions, in sterile glass flasks. This technique, called the **non-symbiotic germination of orchid seeds**, was introduced by Dr. Lewis Knudsen of Cornell University. His experiments demonstrated that this solution would allow the seeds to germinate and grow better than in their native habitat, and solutions with only sugar and water-germinated seeds failed to survive. His **Formula C** is still the most dramatic discovery in in-vitro cultivation. The procedure is more important than the equipment.

Other methods of propagation are by division, keikis and mericlone or meristem propagation, which is also a very specialized, sterile lab technique to mass-produce clones; they take a shaving from a plant stem, add new growth platelets and put in a special mix. Very often he said, plants that have come from a chemically controlled environment will not survive after you buy them since your environment is hardly the same.

** The finest tools are useless if the seeds and flasks are not sterilized correctly, which would permit contamination of the agar gels. Seed-borne and air-borne fungi and algae can get into seed flasks so easily, and grow rapidly, that they crowd out and kill the orchid seedlings. The seeds go into the 'mother' flask that is used to germinate the seeds on media designed for this purpose; mother flasks may contain hundreds or thousands of "protocorms," or very tiny seedlings that are little more than green balls of cells. When these small plants are seen forming in it, it means the stork has arrived! Once these protocorms are large enough, they are moved to different media in "replate flasks" to permit the seedlings to grow until they are large enough to survive outside the flask. When the flask is crowded, in order to give the little plants more space, a small number of each go in a second replate flask and will be ready for un-flasking when they have several pairs of leaves and strong healthy roots. They will by then have reached a height of about 3 inches or more when they move to a Community Pot, which also has its own special medium.

Orchids are recognized by the combination of three elements: their pollen - plural is 'pollinia' and is formed into one or two masses; stamens and pistils are joined together in a structure called a 'column', and their seeds are very small and can be up to three million in a seed capsule. Bill illustrated the various parts of the reproductive structures: the pedicel (the stem of the flower which includes the ovary), sepals, petals and the column. Sepals and petals are in threes. The three sepals consist of the dorsal sepal and two lateral sepals. The three petals consist of two petals and a modified one called the labellum, or the lip. He described the ovary as being high up on the pedicel and it often remains slender until after pollination so it is only slightly thicker than the pedicel when the flower opens.

The column contains the stigma, which is the "female" sexual part of the flower and the anther, which is the "male" sexual part of the flower. In most orchids the anther is held at the front top part of the column. The anther is made up of the anther cap, which protects the pollen and sometimes positions a viscidium, a sticky pad attached to the pollinia via a thread or stipe, that helps the pollen stick to the pollinator, and the multiple locules which hold the pollinia. Most orchids have two, four or eight pollen masses or pollinia. No orchids have loose pollen grains.

So along come the pollinators that usually encounter the pollinia when exploring the flower and these pollinia "glue" themselves to the part of the pollinator which comes into contact with them. The rostellum is a veil-like structure that bisects the column on a horizontal plane and is positioned between the pollinia in their anther housing and the sticky surface of the stigma. The pollinator bird, bee, moth, or other insect deposits the pollen into the stigma of another plant and by a chemical reaction the pollen travels down the column and in 3 weeks the seeds fertilize in the ovary. Bill passed around a long brown seed pod which was opened for us all to look at - millions of powdery seeds are contained in the pod.



Seed Pod



We were all very amused at Bill's humor in pointing out the picture of Edimus Bugimus (I wonder if he knows there is a product called Bugimus Minimus™ a chemical free foliar pesticide.)

Bill ended his talk with some photo examples of orchids that had been propagated from seed by several well known breeders, including one of his own and Ed Bugbee's. He did say that hybridizers have a good idea beforehand of what they'll get before they attempt to do it, considering, temperature, recessive and dominant genes, size, form, shape, color etc. and the photos showed the results obtained after crossing two different plants, results that were not necessarily what you would expect.

Rhynchobrassoleya Memoria Robert F. Nunez (B. nodosa x Blc. 'Taiwan Queen') in which the purple spots of the nodosa dominated.

The hybrid that Ed Bugbee made, ***Blc 'Louise Bugbee'***, which is B. nodosa x Blc 'Mickey's Freckles' (lavendar with purple spots) produced some with orange (from the parents of Mickey's Freckles) and others with the white shape predominant from the nodosa, but only a few had the purple spots on the white star shape of the nodosa that he was shooting for, and that's the hybrid he named.

For those interested in this topic who want to learn more about it, there is information available easily online. All you'd have to do is a Google search for any of the terms mentioned. Everything is there in abundance. Bill has just given us an inkling into what is involved - enough to whet our appetite and show us some of the basics.

* For further information relating to Bill's topic: www.mycorrhizae.com/

* This site tells the entire story of orchids everything you wanted to know in chapters from history to culture to doing it yourself seed germination, propagation & more: www.growingorchids.net/growingorchids11.php

** Beginner's Guide to Growing Orchids from Seed. Replanting & Seedling Care: www.orchidspng.com/seed_flasking3.html

Webinars - Coming Attractions!

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Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

When	Jan. 02, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Jan. 09, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 05, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST	Feb. 12, 2025 Wednesday 8:30 pm EST
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Dec. 31, 2024</i>	Inorganic Potting Media, Never Repot Again Part 1 Semi-hydroponic growing	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A <i>Send in your Photos and Questions by Feb. 03</i>	Inorganic Potting Media, Never Repot Again Part 2
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Long time orchid grower across multiple states and in different environments.	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Harvey Brenneise Long time orchid grower across multiple states and in different environments.



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

Use the
WEBINAR
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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.