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THE KEIKI







Next Meeting





May 3rd and 4th - The Annual Show and Sale!!!!!

May 24– Annual potting workshop. Garden Trails will be selling supplies. Bring your plant, pot/mount, media, and learn how to repot or remount your orchids

Meeting location and date!

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Spring Hill,

13485 Spring Hill Dr, Spring Hill, FL 34609

The FOURTH Saturday of the month

12PM Meeting starts — I I am to 12pm social hour

President's Message



Hi everyone,

As I write this we're preparing for our annual orchid show. This year will be a very interesting show since it's the latest we've ever held it and the types of orchids in bloom may be quite different from what we've seen in years past. I'm excited to see what shows up. I have a couple of special ones that I hope to bring, but you'll have to come to the show to see them. One of the interesting things I've been noticing about my own orchids is how amazingly regular they are with their bloom times. When I go back to previous years and look at my pictures, the

dates of those blooms are often within DAYS of when they're blooming now. What this has told me is that my soft-cane Dendrobiums like nobile-types, anosmum, aphyllum and others like lindleyi will not be in bloom, having finished before I can bring them. But some others will be blooming including many Phalaenopsis, some Cattleya types, Maxillaria tenuifolia and some wayward Dendrobiums. I really hope that many of you have some plants in bloom and will bring them for us and our visitors to enjoy.

One of the ways I've been able to get plants to be in bloom year-round is to buy them in bloom at different times of the year. This year's show should help with that, and we have several wonderful vendors bringing plants for sale at our show. So if you want to get plants that will bloom at different times of the year, now is the time to find some! Also, Mother's Day is the next weekend after the show so if you want a nice plant for Mom, this is a great opportunity.

Days are getting longer and our temperatures have been quite hot. Coupled with this has been a lack of rain. Considering this, your orchids may need to be moved to shadier locations and/or require more water than they've been getting. Most of our plants are starting to enter their most active growing periods, so now is also a good time to do re-potting. If you're unsure how to do that, or if you just want to enjoy doing it with other enthusiasts, please come to our May 24th meeting where we will be doing a re-potting workshop. Bring a plant or two, and whatever pots and media you'd like to use including mounts if you'd like to try that. I will send more detailed instructions in the next couple weeks once our show is done.

Hope to see you all and to see your beautiful happy orchids on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th!

Matt

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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1st Vice President **Bob East**

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Recording Secretary for meetings Cheryl Crilly

(not an elected position)

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Refreshment Reminders

Show Table Report **Matt Riesz**

Sunshine Greetings Gertie Messenger

Speaker Segment Writer Denise Provencher

Trips Volunteers please

Webmaster **Bob East**

(Website set up by Ken Dunn)

Annie Aierstock

AOS Representative Matt Riesz

NCOS speaker schedule through December 2025

Updated as of 5/01/2025

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. Jim Roberts owns Fl Suncoast Orchids located in Myakka City. Jim has been growing & breeding orchids for over 30 yrs. He makes learning about orchids fun so come & learn how to grow Encyclias. Jim won a "hybridizer award for Encyclias & others in the Cattelya Alliance" from the AOS in 2019 so he will know how to teach us to be successful growing & flowering them. He will be bring orchids for us to buy.

August 23- Our annual orchid auction! Lots more information to come!

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, Renanthetas & Rhynchostylis. He will be bringing orchids to sell.

December- Our annual Holiday party.

Come to the Orchid Show, get supplies, buy orchids — of course — and have a great time! See you there!

NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

Annual Show and Sale

"LOVE OF ORCHIDS"

MAY 3RD & MAY 4TH, 2025 Saturday - 10 a.m. to 4 pm.

Sunday - 10 a.m. to 4 pm.

American Orchid Society

Judged Orchids on Display

Free Lectures on Saturday and Sunday at 11:00am and 1:00pm.

Subjects to be announced at a later date.

"Special"

We are adding guided tours by arrangements.

Also a children's fun challenge!

Vendor list as follows:

Accent Orchids, Florida Orchid House, Jim-N-I Orchids, Garden Trails, Orchid Den, FL. Suncoast, Lady Vanda

Location - St. Joan of Arc Church

13485 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34609

Corner of Spring Hill Dr. & Coronado Dr., About 1.5 miles West of FL-589.

ADMISSION \$5

Sunday-Veterans \$1.00 off

See website for vendors and speakers updates.

Kids under 12 FREE

FREE PARKING

www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com

Who would like to go on an orchid tour of members' gardens?

Exciting news for members!!! A tour of some of our member gardens is being planned. The tour will take place in the fall, so watch the Keiki for more information. This event is a membership benefit, and wonderful opportunity for members to speak with, and learn from, other orchid growers in our Club.

We are looking for members who would like to open their garden, green-house, orchid room, or where ever you grow your orchids—to other members who are interested in visiting these gardens. It doesn't have to be peak bloom time, perhaps you have other interesting information to share as well. This might include how you protect your orchids in the winter, your thoughts on pest control, and tips and tricks to share with others.

If you prefer to have a write-up in the Keiki only, that's fine too. This is an option to share your orchid garden and knowledge as well.

If you would like to open your garden for members to view or read about in the Keiki, or have any questions, please let me know by emailing me at deemail@tampabay.rr.com. Dee Provencher



Picture Raffle Winner

The winner of April's Picture Raffle is Maurita Riesz, holding the beautiful dendrobium that was this month's raffle 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

Ryan Kowalczyk—Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums

For April's meeting, Ryan Kowalczyk, spoke about Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, or simply Paphs and Phrags as they are commonly referred to. Ryan has over 40 years experience with orchids, and has won 175 awards! Most of the awards were for quality. He has also won 5 of the special yearly awards given internationally by the AOS. He is also an accredited AOS judge. Ryan explained that it takes 6 years to learn to be a judge. It's like getting a PhD!

Both Paphs and Phrags belong to the Cypripediordeae subfamily of orchids, and are often referred to as slipper orchids. This is due to the slipper-shaped pouched that trap insects which then help fertilize the flowers in their attempt to escape the pouch. Some are epiphytic, some cling to cracks in limestone outcroppings, and others are woodland growers.

Culture specific to Paphs

Ryan focused his talk on how to grow these beautiful plants. He stated that the most important culture tip is to maintain consistency. These plants grow slow and steady, and do not withstand much stress. When they do get stressed, by the time damage shows, it will be too late. They must be kept just right; not too wet, not too dry. Of course, how much water they need depends on light levels, root mass, type of potting media, and temperature.

When trying to determine dryness, the top may appear dry, but it is deeper down that moisture levels need to be checked. Ryan's tip for doing this is to use a pencil, poke 1-2 inches down into the media, and examine the pencil point. If there is moisture, small pieces of media should stick to the pencil. If it is completely dry, then water is needed.

The roots will grow along the edges of the container, where they can breath better than is possible in the center of the pot. Ryan uses packing peanuts on the bottom of the pots, and even under the plant in the center to assist with drainage. (See recipes for media mix on page 8).

When watering, drench thoroughly, and water earlier in the day. Always dry by night! Overwatering comes from frequency, not quantity.

Watch for calcium deficiency and low PH, as these will cause root problems. Ryan uses crushed oyster shells for calcium. This is readily available where ever chicken feed is sold.

Paphs prefer intermediate light. If there isn't enough light, the leaves will be too green, and if there is too much light, the leaves will turn yellow. They like the same light as Phals, and NO sun.

These plants must have good drainage, and aeration. Ryan uses 50% inert material so the mix doesn't break down too quickly. He has not had good experiences with sphagnum moss, and do not use it for his plants. For smaller pots use small pieces of bark. The pieces can be larger as the pot size increases. Top-dress with the crushed oyster shell. Ryan highly recommends soaking your planting media first so it will already be wet and able to hold water when you put the plant into it.

Never bury Paphs too deep when potting. The crown should be at soil level. There is no best time of the year to repot, as long as the plant needs it, it is ok to do.

When dividing, always make sure you have at least 2 fans per division. Don't separate down to just one fan.

Culture tips specific to Phrags

Phrags are similar to Paphs since they are related, but they grow naturally in higher elevation water seeps in between rocks, and must have steady water. They also do not need the extra calcium. Just keep the roots constantly moist. Phrags can also take more light. Sphagnum moss can be used as part of your mix, as can perlite. Never let Phrags get dry!

Phrags can be repotted regularly. Do not use peanuts in Phrag mixes as they do not need the extra drainage. Phrags can also be potted a bit deeper in the pot, as they tend to "climb" out of the pot.

Diseases

Rot is the most common problem—both fungal and bacterial. Dry by night! Water early in the day. Ryan uses Phyton 27 to treat affected plants. Used as a spray or drench, this copper based systemic may save your plants. Keep segregated while treating. Phyton 27 is safe for orchids, except Dendrobiums.

Subdue can be used for fungal rot, but not bacterial rot. It also is a spray or drench.

Pests

Mealy bugs are the most common bug problem for Paphs and Phrags. They are masters at hiding, so be sure to look under leaves. Dabbing them with alcohol will work, or if there is a heavy infestation, a systemic can be used. More than one product/active ingredient will need to be used to prevent resistance, so alternate products, treating once a week for three weeks. Mites can sometimes attack these plants, but mites are not an insect, so you cannot use an insecticide. Avid (Abermectin) is one option. Use three treatments, once per week for three weeks.

Neem oil and horticultural oils, can be used for many pests as well. Remember to always clean your tools in between plants!



Photo: Nancy Huff

Ryan has provided a recording of his presentation and of the dividing and repotting demonstration. These may be viewed at your convenience.

https://youtu.be/bbwu9bt2WjE Ryan's Presentation

https://youtu.be/VU58ywcLNIQ Ryan's Demo

Ryan's 50/50 Paph Mix Recipe

2" or 3" pots—

2 scoops fine bark

I scoop perlite

I scoop hydroton/shale

4" or 5" pots—

I scoop fine bark

I scoop medium bark

1/2 scoop perlite

1/2 scoop medium sponge rock

I scoop hydroton/shale

6" pots and up—

1/2 scoop fine bar

I scoop medium bark

1/2 scoop large bark

I scoop medium sponge rock

I scoop hydroton/shale

1/2 scoop charcoal (optional)

1	NCOS Show Table 4-26-2025		
2	Plant Name	Grower	
3	Den. unicum	Payton Millican	
4	Vanda Prapawan	Lacy and Kathy Shawver	
5	Vanda denisoniana 'Prapan Attorney'	Randy Dugan	
6	Bc. Ecuagenera 'USA'	Randy Dugan	
7	Gongora atropurpurea	Susan Kimmel	
8	Den. Ueang Pheung	Matt Riesz	
9	Max. tenuifolia	Ken Mort	
10	Phal. Hybrid	Bob East	
11	Phal. Hybrid	Bob East	
12	Phal. Chia e Yenlin 'Variegata'	Matt Riesz	
13	Rlc. Hawaii Island Treat '#14'	Susan Kimmel	
14	Phal. Hybrid	Matt Riesz	
15	Bulb. sumatranum	Susan Kimmel	
16	Paph. philippinense	Matt Riesz	
17	Phal. Papagayo	Randy Dugan	
18	Den. chrysotoxum	Matt Riesz	
19	Encyclia cordigera var. semialba	Randy Dugan	
20	Wilsonara hybrid	Herb & Debra May	
21	Chysis limminghii	Randy Dugan	
22	Vanda Miniata	Rachel Herter	
23	Ctsm. Millie's Frilly Dragon 'Chocolate Frills' x Ctsm. Karen Armstrong 'Dark Darling'	Rachel Herter	

April Show Table—photos by Bryon Provencher



Rlc. Hawaii Island Treat '#14'



Vanda 'Miniata'



Ctsm. Millie's Frilly Dragon 'Chocolate Frills' x Ctsm. Karen Armstrong 'Dark Darling'



Max. tenuifolia



Bc. Ecuagenera 'USA'



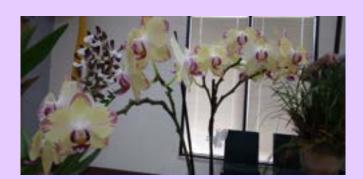
Wilsonara hybrid



Encyclia cordigera var. semialba



Chysis limminghii



Phal. Papagayo



Den. chrysotoxum



Paph. Philippinense



Phal. Hybrid



Bulb. Sumatranum



Phal. Chia e Yenlin 'Variegata'



Phal. Hybrid



Phal. Hybrid



Den. Unicum



Vanda Prapawan



Vanda denisoniana 'Prapan Attorney'



Gongora atropurpurea



Den. Ueang Pheung

Past Speaker Article 11/9/2017

JOURNEY DOWN THE AMAZON WITH FRANCISCO MIRANDA

by Delia Dunn

Francisco Miranda was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He got his Bachelor's degree in Biology and began his taxonomic studies in the orchid family in 1981. During the next 4 years, he lived most of the time in Manaus, the main city of the inland Amazon, where he studied Amazon orchids and obtained his Master's degree in Botany. His main interest has been Brazilian Laelias and Cattleyas. He is the author of several papers on species descriptions and other subjects of interest to growers, in various publications. He is author of two books and working on others. Since 2000, he lives in Haines City, Florida, where he owns Miranda Orchids, specializing in Brazilian species and the Cattleya alliance. He has had 25 years experience growing and breeding Brazilian orchids and since 2001 has been a qualified Taxonomic Authority for the A.O.S. specializing in the determination of Brazilian species. Francisco was very proud to tell us that only 10 days prior to speaking to us he became an American citizen and he started his presentation with great applause!

He first told us a little about the climate of South America then presented his "Orchids of the Brazilian Amazon" with an interesting slide presentation of various orchids in their different natural habitats. 15,000 orchid species have been found in South America. They have the opposite climate to North America. The cold weather comes in from the south, over the ocean really low and as it moves north to the Amazon it warms up. They have hot to freezing temps. The Amazon Rain Forest, the largest forest on the planet, is situated in the north at or near the Equator and covers half the area of Brazil. It has a dry and a wet season. Orchids grow magnificently there in the warm humid climates and die in a freeze but come back again the next year as strong as before. There are actually several different areas making up the Amazon region and Francisco focused on three of them today: Dry-land Forest where there is little to no flooding; Central with it's sandy woodlands and Coastal where there is much flooding.

Trees in the <u>Dry-land forest area</u> have far different soil from ours in that we have many nutrients in our soils but surprisingly, theirs is a thick red and yellow clay-like soil, relatively acidic and lacks nutrients and this stunts root development so they grow close to the surface. Much of the nutrients in the rain forest come from trees and plants so trees get their nutrition from the compost of decaying leaves, wood, animal waste and other organic matter; humidity forms and the roots get nutrition from the compost. This is the densest part of the forest and the largest. The rain forest maintains itself with rain and flooding helping to transport nutrients. The rain forest soil is like a sponge and even being not very nutrient rich, it can hold enough nutrients to help maintain the trees until the next rainy season - but once the trees are cut down, they are gone forever leaving hard clay behind where nothing grows. Roads in the area are washed away with the rain making travel muddy and difficult. Trees can grow 150-200' tall, thick at the top like a canopy, don't let in much sunlight and orchids, specifically Catasetums that have very many species in Brazil, live in the tops of those trees where it's lighter and thinner. Some species may grow on the ground in the heavy shade. Other orchids to be found in the Dry-land forest are: Paphinia cristata and grandiflora, Trichocentrum, Cattleya luteola and violacea, Mormodes, Batemania, Scaphyglottis amazonica, small species of Maxillaria and many others. He said you can walk for hours and see no change in that environment. There are very many varieties of trees but not that many species of orchids. Maxillaria and Pleurothallis are quite common (20% of the 150 species of Maxillaria found in Brazil are in the Amazon). He showed a slide of Monkeys Ladder vine that is 150' tall and grows in natural 'steps' and is very thick just like a ladder; he said the Anacondas there in the Amazon can grow 60' long but normal size is about 30'.

One of his humorous stories: one night he and two other men camped out in a tent covered with mosquito netting and woke in the morning with holes in the tent. Horseflies and big fire ants were so bad bugging them all night - the men were tired, soaking wet from intense humidity and rain, in the area were known to be jaguars, monkeys and other scary creatures and hearing noises one of the men fired his gun and shot holes in the tent.

In the <u>Central area of the Amazon or 'Campinas' or woodlands</u> are white sand based forests with micro habitats, which are different from the rain forests due to the white sandy soil which has good drainage, roots grow deeper and so the trees can support themselves from the base and there is much more sunlight available below. The trees are short with lots of branches and separated from each other and no heavy grass growth. There are an enormous variety of beautiful species that grow on the ground here. Cattleya eldorado which grows 7" across is abundant in this large area but you might walk 10 miles to get to it. Clay and white sand areas may be less than 100 yards apart. Originally there was soil before clay came so all the areas were interconnected in the past. Here you'll find Epidendrum fragrans that you can smell before you get to the open area. In the Amazon they have a rainy season and a rainiest season in which small streams can overflow month after month. He talked about being unable to drive on some of the jungle roads after the rains have collapsed them, having to walk many miles to get where you're going because you can't drive; the danger of caymans, pirhanas, wild animals, guns, heat, rain, horribly steamy hot weather. You don't want to touch anything in the Amazon jungle because it might bite you. A very few of the orchids found here are: Brassavola martiana, Catasetum discolor, Caularthron bicornutum, Encyclia mapuerae, Maxillaria amazonica, and many others.

Varzeas and flood plains area. These are environments under direct aquatic influence with seasonal and permanently flooded habitats. The Amazon River, 4,080 miles long, flows from the Andes Mountains in Peru through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean. The volume of water in the river is more than any other river in the world. It is 12 miles wide in places; there are lots of tributaries and when the tides rise there can be a rush of water coming in very quickly up to 150 miles inland from the ocean. It has clay and humic acid; it's slow flowing - there are areas that are flooded year round and dry land areas too. The Amazon accounts for approximately 1/5 of the world's total river flow; a small stream that has no current but is flooded could become 50-100 yards wide in a short time and that is called a large seasonal lake. There are many small animals, insects, plants, floating grasses and giant lily pads of the Victoria amazonica, for example. Orchids are growing in the water - Galeandras can be under water for up to 6 months - or on the rocks beside the water, the trees are in the water when it's flooded and there are orchids like Cattleya violacea high up in those trees and if you really want to get to those orchids the only way is to go with a guide in a small boat and send him up the tree while you stay in the boat and back it up to take pictures of him or to avoid him if he falls from the trees when a rush of tidal water comes in, or he's stung by the bees that have their nests in the same tree. You hope he falls into the water and not the boat as you can't afford to have the tiny boat capsize as you might be 2-3 hours from civilization and no help around if the boat capsizes or there are injuries. He and another man had to hide under the water one time because a nest of bees in the tree was disturbed. Just samplings of the orchids found in this area are: Acacallis cyanea, Catasetum saccatum Caularthon bicornutum, Coryanthes maculata, Galeandra devoniana, Zygosepalum, Oncidium lanceanum, Mormodes.

He had many humorous stories to tell along with pictures of these beautiful and very unusual orchids, some of them. The Coryanthes macrantha blooms only 2 days and it attracts a certain bee of a certain size, not too big and not too small and that is the euglossine bee. The flower is shaped like a bucket and it drips a lot of nectar into its bucket. The flower is 6" across and smells so good, he said. The bee crawls in one opening in the flower and in so doing gets the pollinia on his back and he has to crawl out of another opening and then he goes on to another flower to pollinate it. If he were too big he would not be able to get out of the flower and he'd die; if he were too small he would drown in the bucket of nectar. Because these flowers are continually being pollinated we know that just the right sized bee is doing the work! Nature is truly amazing that the right pollinator is attracted to the flower it's meant to pollinate. Francisco referred to plants as 'amusement parks' for bees at least in this area of amazing orchids with wonderful 'slides' for the bees to literally slide down to gather the pollen or escape the plant like the colorful Gongora and the extreme slide of the Scuticaria steelii.

<u>www.mirandaorchids.com</u> to see his informative website complete with photographs of Brazilian orchids, paintings of orchids and scenery. Also of interest is Francisco's interesting personal story of how he became interested in these amazing plants and what he's doing today. He might also have information about trips.

He is located at: 4763 Polk City Road, Haines City, FL 33844.

Phone/Fax: 863-875-8255 info@mirandaorchids.com.





Join us for this Outstanding <u>Online</u> Event Mark Your Calendar—Set Your Device Reminder



American Orchid Society
7th CULTURE DAY
Sunday, May 18, 2025
11 a.m.—3:30 p.m. EDT

This Event is Recorded for all Registrants to View at their Leisure

ORCHIDS—From Seed to Success

- Door Prizes!

 Mount be continue day

 Mount to be ellectre

 4 Guest Speakers

 4 Great Topics
- Orchid Pollination In Nature and at Your Kitchen Table Explained by Adam Karremans, Director of Lankester Botanical Garden
- Can I Make My Own Hybrid? Demonstration of flasking, deflasking and compots, by Hobby Growers and Hybridizers, Keith and Dina Emig
- Brassavola-Cattleya Alliance Novelty Hybrids Tune in to meet Allen Black and understand his dedication to this group of orchids
- Easy to Grow and Bloom Hybrids Presented by Manny Aybar, accomplished hobbyist, AOS Judge, and AOS award winning exhibitor

Online Registration Required—Only \$40

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	May 08, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	May 15, 2025 Thursday 8:30 pm EDT	June 03, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT	June 10, 2025 Tuesday 8:30 pm EDT
Topic	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by May 05	Master Orchidist Series Calming Your Fears About Repotting Orchids Learn about using the best media & techniques, for growing orchids indoors	Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A Answers to your questions about all things orchid. Send in your Photos and Questions by June 01	Master Orchidist Series Explore The Best Orchids to Grow Indoors Many orchids can thrive indoors when we learn their basic needs
Presenter	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	Janeil Payne Long time orchid grower and AOS Orchid Judge	Ron McHatton AOS Chief Education and Science Officer	David Vandenbroek SDCOS President, Grows mostly species



Webinar announcements are posted on the AOS website, on Facebook and Instagram, and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter. Use the WEBINAR Display Filter

Membership Notes

by Carol Siegley

Current Membership is 90.

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.

<u>Member Name Tags</u>

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.