



Volume 28

Issue 8

August 2020

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THE KEIKI



We have decided to cancel our August and September meetings due to the resurgence of the pandemic in our area. We may need to cancel our October auction and November picnic, as well, if things don't turn around soon. Please wear your mask and practice all the other safety measures to avoid catching and/or spreading this virus.

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy, and that your orchids are making your days brighter. Please post some pictures on our Nature Coast Orchid Society Facebook group for all of us to enjoy! The pictures in this newsletter are gleaned from the many beautiful ones there. We hope you all enjoy them.

A Request from Your Editors

We try to find interesting things to put in the Keiki every month. But what interests US may not be what interests YOU. If you have a topic you'd like to see, PLEEEEEEEASE let us know! Even better would be an article, or a pointer to one you think would interest our members. Send requests and ideas to us:

Matt Riesz at mrfishnj@gmail.com or

Julie Smolka at jasmolka@verizon.net.

CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS/EVENTS FOR NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY FOR 2020

August—Cancelled

September—Possible

October—Annual NCOS Auction (may be cancelled)

November—Annual picnic (may be cancelled)

December—holiday party?

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	Steve Mattana
<u>Past President</u>	Jeff Rundell
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Geary Harris
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	Sharon Wagner
<u>Treasurer</u>	Pat Baig
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	Pat Dupke
<u>Advisory Capacity</u>	Helen Battistrada
<u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u> (not an elected position)	Kara Ramsey

COMMITTEES

<u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u>	Matt Riesz and Julie Smolka
<u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u>	Tim Smith
<u>Historian</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Librarian</u>	Celeste Ogden
<u>Membership</u>	Arlene Appelbaum, Carol VanderLaan
<u>Publicity</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Refreshment Table</u>	Volunteers please
<u>Refreshment Reminders</u>	Mary Lou Mattana
<u>Show Table Report</u>	Matt Riesz
<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u>	Kara Ramsey
<u>Trips</u>	Sonia Terrelonge
<u>Webmaster</u> (Website set up by Ken Dunn)	Bob East
<u>AOS Representative</u>	Matt Riesz

**Activities that are low risk
of contracting Covid19**

- Watering your orchids
- Fertilising your orchids
- Repotting your orchids
- Talking to your orchids
- Looking at orchids online
- Buying orchids online
- Weeding your orchids
- Having a coffee with your orchids
- Enjoying the sun with your orchids
- Exercising around your orchids
- Pruning your orchids

**Looks like having orchids
is the best prevention**

Happy gardening 😊



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Pat Baig

As of July 28th:

Opening balance:	\$10,721.08
Received:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$69.95
Closing balance:	\$10,651.13



President's Message

Good day everyone!

Well, it's been five long grueling months since we've seen each other. Unfortunately, with the increase of COVID-19 infections there will not be a board meeting or a regular society meeting for the month of August.

I am urging everyone to go to our Facebook page ("Nature Coast Orchid Society") for updates as well as interesting articles. We have also supplied you with a link for a symposium that will be a virtual program! Our page on Facebook is the fastest way to get information. Please make sure you check our Facebook page and your emails for all the information we are giving you. If you're not getting emails, please contact Matt Riesz or Arlene Appelbaum.

Celeste has asked to step down as our second vice president. Please thank Celeste for doing an incredible job in that position. I would like to introduce everyone to our new 2nd Vice President.. Sharon Wagner. The board made a decision to bring Sharon on to fill that vital open position. Sharon has experience with orchids and helping out at events, as well as being well spoken and enthusiastic. We're looking forward to seeing Sharon's ideas for guest speakers/programs. I know she will do an incredible job. You may see new faces giving presentations to a group on a variety of new subjects. Thank you, Sharon, for joining our board!

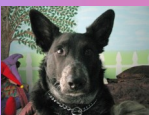
Pat Dupke will be resigning as our board secretary. So, we will be looking for someone to take her place. The duties include attending the once monthly board meeting and typing up the board minutes. We thank Pat for the awesome job that she's done over the past few years for us during my time as president.

If you have articles or ideas that you would like to submit to the Keiki, please send them to Matt Riesz or Julie Smolka. During this time when we can't meet, simple articles to keep everybody informed of what we're doing personally and as a group can help us get through this together.

We are hoping to have a regular meeting in September if this virus starts to slow down. We have not made any other plans other than discussing the possibility of it. My main focus is protecting everyone in the society. I do not want anyone to get sick. But when we do have a meeting, we will provide masks. We will check everyone at the door for a fever. And we will need to practice safe distancing so we should be quite safe. But nothing has been set up yet, stay tuned!

Until next time, hopefully I'll have better news. Happy growing!

S





Membership Notes for August

From Arlene Appelbaum

As uncertain as these times are for all of us now, hopefully all of our orchids are thriving due to the abundant care and attention they must all be receiving. So even sheltering at home has its rewards.

Our society currently boasts a membership of 128 orchid lovers.

Please be well and stay safe.

Arlene Appelbaum



Bc. Yellow Bird, from Matt Riesz

MEMBERS:

Arlene has graciously taken over sending get-well cards and sympathy cards to members. If you know of any members who are ill or grieving, please send her an email to let her know at fluffy2cats@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



NCOS ORCHID QUIZ

Answers on last page

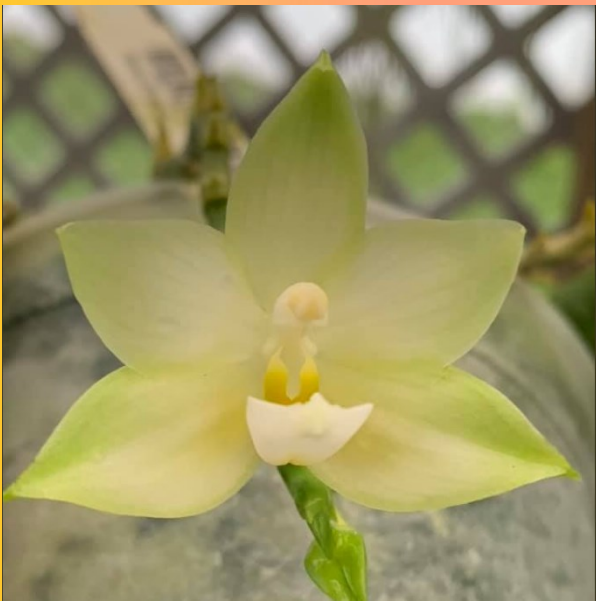
1. *The world's biggest orchid species weighs*
 - A. *Less than 100 pounds*
 - B. *About half a pound*
 - C. *47.3 pounds*
 - D. *More than half a ton*
2. *A bouquet of the world's smallest orchid flowers could fit on:*
 - A. *A dinner plate*
 - B. *A thimble*
 - C. *The head of a pin*
 - D. *A teaspoon*
3. *In Sumatra, schoolteachers use split orchid pseudobulbs as:*
 - A. *Chalk*
 - B. *Microphones*
 - C. *Blackboard erasers*
 - D. *Lunch*
4. *The orchid drink that's popular in Greece and Turkey is:*
 - A. *Salep*
 - B. *Sitrep*
 - C. *Saloon*
 - D. *Orchid wine*
5. *True or False:*

English witches used orchids in their love potions



A few pictures from the Nature Coast Orchid Society facebook page.

Don't forget to stop by the our facebook page and share some photos !!



Notes on How to Grow Orchids

Growing Phalaenopsis, from Steve Mattana:

Water when the media is almost dry, and then drench under running water until the media is thoroughly wet, drain with no water left in the saucer or center of the plant; repeat when nearly dry. The motto is "you cannot water too much but you can water too often." A plant with desiccated leaves, indicates not enough water getting to the leaves, either because of insufficient watering or watering too much so that the roots are rotting.

Phals should be grown in shade - no direct sun. The pot should match the size of the plant - not too big, which will stay wet too long. They do well in unglazed clay pots or in baskets. They do well mounted if you can water them every day. Use orchid fertilizer weekly, weakly with a little added seaweed (see Newbies file on Seaweed/Kelp). Bloom booster type is not necessary.

A phalaenopsis grown indoors in air conditioning will do well for awhile, but will not achieve optimum growth and flowering for the long term. Still, beautiful phals are available for less than the cost of cut flowers and last much longer.

Repotting Your Phalaenopsis by Darlene M. Norton

(Most of this also applies to other types of orchids...)

Pull the clear plastic pot out of the decorative ceramic (assuming there is one) and just check to make sure your roots look good. They should be either green or white and plump. Plump means plump...not stiff. If all you see is thin, stringy stuff, brown *or* green (algae covered) be it wet or dry, you'll need to repot.

Using sterilized cutters, remove dead roots. If you pull a bit on a root and a "sleeve" or covering slips off easily, leaving just a "string" (that's the actual root!) that root is dead. The covering is called the vellum and it's like a protective covering and sponge that helps bring water to the skinny root inside.

Pull the plant out and remove all the media and remove any dead roots. Sometimes a good soaking is in order because it makes roots more pliable and less likely to break. Spray the plant down with undiluted hydrogen peroxide to kill any fungus or bacteria. If using bark mix, soak it for at least a couple of hours and even overnight to fully saturate before using, otherwise the plant will dry out and get dehydrated very quickly. Sphagnum should be wetted and excess water squeezed out before using.

Use a pot that the plant just fits into; they like being tight in their pots and stability is very important for keeping new roots safe. If you need to, use a pot clip. Throw some media in the bottom of the pot and put the plant in, and backfill with your media. The base of the plant should sit just at the level of the top of media. If you pot too deep the plant is susceptible to collar rot.

If you have roots growing in the air, leave them there! They're aerial roots and will not survive if you try to make them behave and put them in media. Besides, they're really kinda cool.

Water only as the bark or sphagnum moss is *almost* dry toward the center of the pot. You can look at the roots through clear plastic pots to help decide when to water; if the green is silvery/grayish it'll need water; if not, wait until they are. If you're not sure, wait a day and check them again. Fully hydrated roots are a bright green through a clear plastic pot.

(Change for Cattleya: Let the media dry completely before watering again.) Do NOT let water sit in the crown, which is the top of the plant where the leaves come together. If you accidentally get water in there, just pick the plant up and tip the water out. (That causes crown rot.) Make SURE the pot is really well drained if you're going to keep it in the ceramic with no drainage. Watering won't be on a strict schedule because weather and temperatures vary and that will affect how fast or slow the media dries out.

...So take a deep breath, jump on in, and HAVE FUN DOING IT!!

Vanda Care, from Steve Mattana

Vandas need 3 things in abundance: water, light, fertilizer.

1. Drench with a hose every day; really drench it, water something else, and go back and wet it again. In very hot weather, try to drench it twice a day. Do not put it in a bucket - that is a way to spread pathogens among your collection.

2. Vandas bloom best when they get some direct sun or screened sun, but they must be acclimated slowly to the bright light. Fall and winter are a good time to make that transition.

3. Fertilize with orchid fertilizer weekly, weakly. Add some seaweed/kelp to the fertilizer to provide hormones that promote root growth. There is a file on Seaweed in the Newbies section of the Florida Orchid Growing group on Facebook.

Vandas do very well attached to a wire hook with roots hanging free, or mounted on a tree. They get enormous roots and the plants themselves can get very large.

They need protection from cold when temps go below 50 degrees. Temps in the low 40s may not kill them but you may get leaf drop and the plant's blooming cycle will be set back significantly.

Announcement: Phalaenopsis Symposium

I would like to officially announce the 2020 PhalFanatics Symposium via zoom. We have 3 great speakers lined up for you, a mounting demonstration, and a fun auction afterwards. This will be held on ** August 15, 2020 and we will record it as well** so if you can't see it live that day you will be able to watch it later.

The first speaker will be Rob Shepherd and his topic will be "Current Trends in Coerulea Phalaenopsis" 2000 to 2020-Two Decades of Modern Coerulea Hybrids.

Mr. Norman Fang will be our second Speaker and his topic is "Phalaenopsis tetraspis, yesterday, today and tomorrow".

Eric Fang will be showing us an option to mounting your Phalaenopsis.

Brandon Tam from The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens will be our final speaker. His topic will be "The Huntington and its Growing Phalaenopsis Species Collection".

Then we will have the auction. We already have several orchids and items that have been donated to us for the auction. These will soon be available for you to see and there will be a live auction at the end of the symposium.

You can find information on signing up for our symposium at <https://phalfanatics.com/events>





2020 August AOS Corner – for Affiliated Societies

CULTURE CONNECTION

CULTIVATE, to grow in a prepared medium

Visit the AOS website for a [Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care](#)

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/july-august-checklist.aspx>

August: The Month of Midlife

By Thomas Mirenda

OK, calm down everyone. Resist it all you like, but we all get older. Those of us of a “certain age” are frequently accused of having a crisis in our lives because others perceive some slightly reckless or unusual behavior. Isn't it hyperbolic to say we are in crisis simply because we seem restless in our jobs, dye our hair, buy a sporty car or, I don't know, sell everything we own and relocate to Argentina so we can dance the tango with beautiful strangers. . . OK, that one does seem a bit much. Even so, why not shake things up a little in our lives? It is not so much about regaining our youth (you could not pay me to be 20 again) as it is about keeping life fresh and fun. When I was 20 everything was exciting and new and life was all about adventure and the future. We may be more settled now in our jobs and houses and partners, but life is still all about the future! Why shouldn't it be just as exciting as it was when we were kids?

The growing of orchids may seem a passive pursuit to many, some might even say cultivating orchids is a pastime for a more subdued set, but I beg to differ. Readers of Orchids know that the activity is endlessly fascinating, and the subject staggeringly vast and mind-boggling. While the thrill I get from walking into the greenhouse and seeing a long awaited new orchid flower finally unfurled may not be equally adrenaline inducing as hang gliding, I also do not run the risk of breaking any bones when I do it! Some of the greatest peak experiences of my life have involved searching for and finding orchids in the wild. These experiences have almost always involved exotic travel, moderate to intense physical activity, immersing myself in nature as well as hanging out with friends, old and new. If that's a life in crisis, I'll take it!

WISE ABOUT WATER Rainwater is a gift from above, and excessive amounts of runoff actually can hurt our environment. Collecting rainwater and using it for your orchids is pretty easy and will be a boon to the health of your collection. A simple rain barrel with a submersible pump and a hose are the basic tools needed. Why waste this fine quality water? August is actually a tough time for orchid watering and you have to use your best judgment around this time. So many of your new growths that initiated in the spring are now approaching maturity. The observant grower will notice that they need less water and fertilizer now than they did months ago and should do better with a little less than they did when in active growth. Actually, the summer heat tends to halt plant metabolism in many of the intermediate growing orchids. Only the very warmest-growing orchids are unaffected by the intensities of summer weather.

CAM PHOTOSYNTHESIS ORCHIDS In fact, many warm-growing (and even some cooler growing) orchids engage in a water-retentive type of plant respiration referred to as crassulacean acid metabolism, or CAM photosynthesis. This is an adaptation that evolved in plants from desert habitats where temperatures are very high and water is scarce. These types of plants do not open their stomata during the day, or all the water in their tissues would immediately vaporize. Instead, CAM plants open at night, which allows needed respiration to occur without the risk of rapid desiccation. In your orchid collection, this means that many of your more succulent orchids might not be able to take up water from their roots until the sun goes down.

FUNGAL ISSUES Astute growers will tell themselves, “Well, I'm told never to water late in the day for risk of crown rot and fungal pathogens that can occur when plant surfaces are wet at night. But if they don't take in water until evening, when should I water?” This has more to do with a phrase you see in this magazine frequently: “a well-drained but moisture retentive mixture.” This is the key to success for so many orchids. You have won half the watering battle by supplying the right mix for your climate for each individual in your collection. You may have the medium issue adequately addressed, but rot issues do tend to appear in the summer heat, especially if you mist your plants excessively to keep them cool. Be on the lookout for signs of bad fungi, broken down mixes that do not dry out (a sure sign of root rot), leaves that are not turgid and new growths that detach or disintegrate. If you have these types of problems, it might be time for an emergency repotting or treatment with a fungicide.

(Continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

THE HEAT IS ON By this time in the summer, deleterious effects of heat will become more pronounced, and you may have to rescue a few orchids. Do your best to cool plants by using combinations of mist, shade and air movement. If portions of your plants have succumbed to heat stress or appear to be rotting, it is always best to remove and discard those necrotic tissues, as the resulting diseases can easily spread to healthier portions of the plant. Treat any cuts you make with an antifungal or antibacterial substance such as cinnamon. Next month, some relief is in sight for your heat-stressed orchids. (*As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL 84, NO.8, August 2015*)



AOS Award No: 20205467

Sobralia virginalis 'Angelica' CCE | AOS (91 points)

Exhibitor: Jorge Solarte

Photographer: Bryan Ramsay

Award 20205467 is a species **Sobralia**.

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-a-to-z/letter-s/sobralia.aspx>



Award No: 20201029

Vanda Lek 'Garrett's Little Lu' AM | AOS (84 points)

Vanda luzonica x *Vanda Flambeau*

Exhibitor: Sharon and David Garrett

Photographer: Wes Newton

Award 20201029 is a hybrid **Vanda**.

<https://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-a-to-z/letter-v/vanda.aspx>

The American Orchid Society Webinars

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch the recorded webinars any time. Some webinars require you to be an AOS member.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	August 13, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	August 26, 2020 8:30pm EST Wednesday	September 01, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	September 10, 2020 8:30 EST Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	<i>Maxillaria</i> Not just <i>tenuifolia</i> anymore	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Encyclias and their Hybrids
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Eric Sauer Awarded Maxillariaologist & Greenhouse Grower	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Mike Curtin is an AOS Student Judge and member of Oregon Orchid Societies

To view **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED.**

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

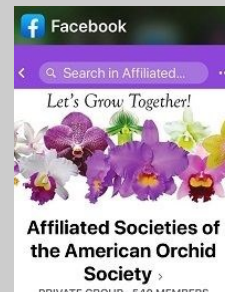
*Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram
and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.*

Remember to check in with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/>

<https://instagram.com/americanorchidsociety?igshid=16ixfciczky01>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/>



YOUR ORCHID LIBRARY

By Celeste Ogden

<http://www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-checkout-books.html>

How do I get a book from the Club's Library?

1. Just Click on: www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-alphabetical-list-books.html
2. Select Books or CD's you think would be useful and order right on the web page.

Select any number(s) that you would like to spend some time with and then you can sign them out at the next Members' Meeting. Keep them for 1 month and return them at the following meeting and remove your name from the list.

If you have any questions about our Library Books, my email address is:

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Your First Orchids and How to Grow Them by: Eminent Orchid Authorities

Book #100-110

This book tells what you need to know in order to set out on the delightful adventure of orchid growing, and it will sustain you through your first efforts and beyond into an enduring and remarkably satisfying hobby.

c1948ogden@gmail.com

Answers to quiz

1. D. The world's biggest orchid species weighs more than half a TON.
2. C. A bouquet of the world's smallest orchid flowers could fit on the head of a pin
3. C. In Sumatra, schoolteachers use split orchid pseudo-bulbs as blackboard erasers
4. A. The orchid drink that's popular in Greece and Turkey is Salep.
5. TRUE: English witches used orchids in their love potions. Fresh tubers promoted true love, while withered ones kept improper passions in check.



**Nature Coast
Orchid Society**

The Society meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 1pm, at the Spring Hill VFW Post 8681 18940 Drayton St. at County Line Rd

Enjoy great speakers, fantastic raffle prizes and beautiful orchids on display.

www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com