



Volume 28

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THE KEIKI



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to burden our nation and the world, we have decided to cancel not only our May meeting, but the June meeting as well. That also includes board meetings in May and June. Elections and other society business will be postponed until we can begin regular meetings again.

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.

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

May 16th—James Stevenson, from Pinellas County—Native Orchids
(CANCELLED)

June 20th—Glenn Gross **(CANCELLED)**

July 18th—Dave Goliath

August—AOS Seminar?

September—AOS Seminar?

October—Annual NCOS Auction

November—Annual picnic

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>	Celeste Ogden
<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

No Treasurer's Report this month. All of our show vendors have had their money refunded, and we expect either a refund or a credit from the VFW for our show fees.

Stay home, and stay healthy!!



President's Message

From the desk of Steve Mattana

Steve Mattana

Good day everyone Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, I have decided that both the board meeting and regular society meeting for June meeting will be canceled. Jeff Rundell and I discussed this over the past couple of weeks and thought it best. I am not willing to jeopardize anybody's health. We have had a few more deaths here in Hernando country. That tells me that the virus is still active here, and everywhere also. At this point there have been over 10,000 deaths in Florida. Hopefully this will be the last month that we have to cancel. We are looking forward to a July meeting. For now, our board of directors will have to remain the same. Our election process would normally be in the works, but we are going to have to put off nominations and elections for now. Hopefully this isn't an inconvenience for anybody. But we are still working. The society will go on! Please stay tuned to Facebook and to your email regarding any programs that will be coming up for the rest of the year. Our next big event, the auction, our money maker, is going to be in October. Being at home during this quarantine gives us all time to look over our orchid collection and decide what we are going to donate. It's a great time to divide plants and make ready for another successful auction.

In the meantime, happy growing, maintain all health precautions.

Thank you Steve Mattana

Attention, Members, WE NEED YOU!!!

Our society depends upon volunteers for everything we do. In particular, we need officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President (who coordinates our speakers), Treasurer and Secretary. Without these officers we CANNOT CONTINUE TO EXIST! Our current slate of officers have been in their positions for two years, having volunteered to continue for a second year. But this year we must elect NEW OFFICERS. The jobs of each officer are not a huge burden, and they're a great way to get to know people. Please, please, please consider volunteering for one of these board positions, as well as several other committee positions. Elections are coming up soon, so speak to Steve Mattana if you're willing to help!



Membership Notes for March

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 orchids lovers.

Please be well and stay safe.

Arlene Appelbaum

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 QUIZ

Answers on last page

1. *To make blooms last as long as possible*
 - A. *Put in direct sunlight*
 - B. *Cut and put in Vase*
 - C. *Maintain healthy watering schedule*
 - D. *Take Pictures*
2. *Allowing insects to pollinate blooms*
 - A. *Makes blooms last longer*
 - B. *Causes blooms to die quickly*
 - C. *Blooms get larger*
 - D. *Causes Plant to rebloom*
3. *A common cause of orchids not blooming*
 - A. *Not enough love*
 - B. *Proper temps not achieved*
 - C. *Not enough light*
 - D. *Both B and C*
4. *Keep plants properly fertilized all year long*
 - A. *Helps plant rebound after blooming*
 - B. *Keeps Plant healthy*
 - C. *By using urea free fertilizer*
 - D. *All of the above*

May: The Month of the Paradigm Shift by Thomas Mirenda

Conventional wisdom suggests that stability and security are the keys to successful living. Certainly in the world of orchids, huge fluctuations in temperature, humidity and light levels lead to poor horticulture. Steadiness in the environment, whether it be outside in a garden or inside in a growing space, is part of what we provide our plants to keep them growing and thriving. This is one reason why so many of us worry about what will happen if the climate changes significantly or shifts permanently. In the culture of our plants, however, there is almost always change that occurs over an annual cycle. Each respective orchid environment shifts, slightly or vastly, over time in the onset of rains or droughts, cool or warm seasons, with corresponding activity among pollinators and other symbionts.

These changes can be subtle, as in most tropical rainforests, or cataclysmic, such as boreal deciduous woodlands where practically everything changes drastically with each season. Suddenly we must think of what was once good three months ago, is suddenly bad for the progress of our plants, and four or six months from now may be good again.

These paradigm shifts, whether subtle or severe, are most important for us to recognize as they are usually what stimulates our plants to bloom, progress and meet their true potential. If you are lamenting (or reveling) in the changes happening all around us these days, consider that the pendulum swings both ways. Perhaps a little adversity is what has been truly needed to make us progress and bloom. Personally, I have been shaken out of my complacency, how about you? Is anyone else out there feeling energized to make our world a little better?

SHIFTING CULTURE May is one of the most exciting and glorious months on our calendar. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, spring is going strong and flowers abound in the landscape. It seems new life is springing up everywhere. It is the most optimistic of times. I sincerely hope these delicious Mays will continue forever and spread the joy of rebirth as it has since the dawn of mankind. The weather is warming up, but still cool and fresh and buoyant with cooler night temperatures. This temperature differential of 10 –15 F (about 5–8 C) is so crucial for most orchids to thrive. It is why I usually recommend people take their orchids outside this time of year to enjoy natural temperature differentials, rejuvenating spring rains and natural light. These are tonics for most orchids and should be exploited, at least until the dog days of summer when we might have another paradigm shift.

LIFE IS A BANQUET Auntie Mame, one of the most memorable and free spirited characters in literature, expressed this excellent truth, except that most of us do not seem to come to the table for some reason. She is correct though, in that our world offers us all kinds of sumptuous possibilities if we are willing to go out and get them. The next few months are serious “banquet time” for most of our orchids. I cannot recommend particular fertilizers or regimens, as there is no one-size-fits-all solution in orchids. Nonetheless, I encourage you to ask your local orchid friends what they are doing and try experimentation with different nutrients to see what elicits the best results for you in your climate.

MAKING ROOM FOR CHANGE Repotting season is at its peak and all orchids that have outgrown their vessels with obstreperous aerial roots all about should be dealt with around now. Think of this like buying new pants or shoes for your kids as they grow up. If you do not buy the shoes or pants, the kids will still grow but will be embarrassed at school and probably will not be invited to the prom. Make sure your plants have the space needed to grow this season’s roots and growths or you will be cheating them of their chance to bloom to their full potential, and in turn cheating yourself of the ultimate enjoyment of seeing your “chids” perform and thrive.

BURGEONING LIFE With all the plants springing up everywhere in the landscape, there are certainly plenty of vernal woodland orchids emerging too. A modicum of research will tell you where to find some local populations. Connecting with the terrific, friendly group known as the Native Orchid Conference (<http://www.nativeorchidconference.info/>) is a great way to get information about likeminded native orchid seekers. Maybe you will find out about orchid hunting trips sponsored by members near you and tag along. Whether or not you find orchids on one of these trips, I promise you, just getting out in the field can be one of the most energizing and life-affirming things you will do this spring. Who knows? It might even shift your life for the better. (As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 86, NO.5, MAY 2017)

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/may-june-checklist.aspx>





We have a winner!

In case you missed it, the AOS just concluded our first people's choice photo contest. Orchid Madness 2020 was created as a bracket style tournament (think March Madness) and attempted to serve as a welcome distraction during these challenging times, as many of us remain housebound.

We started by selecting 8 plants each from 8 categories: Phalaenopsis, Vandas, Dendrobiums, Bulbophyllums, Slippers (Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums), Cattleyas, Cymbidiums and Miscellaneous Genera. The photos were hand selected by the AOS Membership and Marketing Committee and were pulled right from OrchidPro. All plants shared the distinction of having an Award of Merit (AM) recognized in 2019. All of the winners can be viewed on our website, @aos.org/madness.

This year's tournament voting ran through our Facebook group which now has over 40,000 members from all over the world. If you have never checked out our group, consider joining. Our online community is the largest of its kind in the world, and shares hundreds of amazing photos every day. Group members post questions and get answers on subjects ranging from culture to plant identification. And while advice can vary from expert to unorthodox, the crowdsourced nature of the advice provides amazing diversity. Year to date our members contributed more than 26,000 posts in less than 4 months!

The 8 group winners faced off in individual matches, and the first 4 pairings competed for 24 hours at a time. The semi-finals and finals ran for 48 hours each with the finals wrapping up on Friday, April 17th, at 12 noon ET.



The people have spoken, and the AOS people's choice champion for 2020 is Phalaenopsis Long Trieu 'Phoenix' AM/AOS! This colorful Phalaenopsis hybrid was selected for an AOS Award of Merit (AM) of 85 points, on May 16th, 2019. The parents are Phalaenopsis Dragon Tree Eagle x Phalaenopsis Sweet Trinity.



Our winner is featured on our header for this month's special edition of the OrchidGram. The winning exhibitor and photographer will also receive a plaque of their winning photo and the photo will also become the banner of the Facebook group page for this year. Congratulations Eric Goo and Phoenix Orchids!

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.

Upcoming Webinars

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	May 12, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	May 21, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	June 16, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	June 23, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Australian Dendrobiums	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Growing Coelogyne
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Fred Clarke AOS Judge, Orchid Hybridizer & Greenhouse Owner	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Charles Wilson AOS Judge, Committee Member Education and Conservation

Just click on: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx> and you can watch these videos at your convenience. Some webinars are reserved for AOS members only.

[Don't miss out! AOS Membership offers something for everyone !](#)

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.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Orchids for Tropical Gardens by: Dr. Chris K.H. Teo

Book # 300-018

Beautiful Orchids for the home and garden. This book tells you in simple, casual language how to grow them.....with 159 color illustrations. A must for all orchid lovers.

If you have any questions about our Library Books, my email address is:
c1948ogden@gmail.com

Here I am



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

Answers to quiz

1. C. Maintain healthy watering schedule
2. B. Causes bloom to die quickly
3. D. Both B and C
4. D. All of the above