

Volume 29 Issue 3 March 2021

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THE KEIKI



Welcome to the March, 2021, Keiki. We have some special items for you this month, including an article on Coelogynes (SEE-loh-gines—rhymes with "Three-more-times") by our very own Corbin Beller. There will be no regular member's meeting this month, as our annual Orchid Show will be held on March 27th and 28th, with set-up on the 26th. We desperately need your blooming plants for our display. You should be working on them now, to keep them clean, staked for the best display or their flowers, and clean. The American Orchid Society will be judging our show and also looking at extra-nice plants for consideration for AOS awards. The judges don't want to see poorly-displayed flowers or plants with (horrors!) BUGS or unsightly blemishes or dirty marks on the leaves. So get them looking nice, and bring them to our set-up day on Friday, March 26th, so we can place them into our beautiful display. What kind of plants do we want?

EVERYTHING!

If it has a flower on it we can lovingly place it where everyone can appreciate it. Who knows? You may even win a ribbon for it! You can come back and pick up your plants on Sunday afternoon after 4PM.

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

Dues are \$20 for a single member, or \$25 for a family living at the same address. We want to remind you that if we have not received your dues by April 1st you will sadly be dropped from the membership list and no longer receive the Keiki.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

President Steve Mattana

Past President Jeff Rundell

<u>1st Vice President</u> Geary Harris

2nd Vice President Sharon Wagner

Treasurer Yvette Lewis

Executive Secretary Linda Moore

Recording Secretary for meetings Kara Ramsey

(not an elected position)

COMMITTEES

Bulletin (The Keiki) Julie Smolka and Matt Riesz

E-mail Co-ordinator Matt Riesz

Historian Mary Lou Mattana

Librarian Volunteers please

Membership Arlene and Arty Appelbaum

<u>Publicity</u> Mary Lou Mattana

<u>Refreshment Table</u> Volunteers please

<u>Refreshment Reminders</u> Volunteers please

Show Table Report Matt Riesz

<u>Speaker Segment Writer</u> Kara Ramsey

<u>Trips</u> Volunteers please

Webmaster Bob East

(Website set up by Ken Dunn)

AOS Representative Matt Riesz

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Yvette Lewis

Current Report as of 2/262021:

Prior balance as of 1/22/2021: \$8,793.29

Total receipts (raffle, etc.) \$870.00

Total disbursements (\$189.20)

Balance as of 2/26/2021 \$9,474.09

Outstanding Checks (\$584.00)

Cash On Hand 1/22/2021 \$8,890.09



Mary Lou Mattana with founding member Helen Battistrada. We miss you, Helen!



President's Message

From Steve Mattana

Good day everyone

Our February meeting was spectacular with all the flowers that Pam Waters, from OrchidsinBloom.com. She brought so many plants it was unbelievable. I purchased four for myself! Pam went into extreme detail in hybridizing with RI. digbyana.. Pam showed

us a couple of different examples of how the digbyana is used in breeding. Rl. digbyana is known for its extreme fragrance. To me it has a lemon lime and another citrus flavor in there that I cannot pinpoint. The fragrance is staggering. It is my favorite plant of all time. I wait all year long for my digbyana to bloom. It is also used because of the giant-sized flower and the fringed petals. And some of the crosses the fringe encompasses more of the flower. It is an amazing lime green colored flower.

Pam also wanted to deal with Rhy. giganteas. Along with their different color patterns and their tremendous fragrance, she also dwelled into the ease and maintenance of this particular plant. Telling us that it could be grown in a pot, in a basket, or mounted. I have mounted mine. All in all, it was a tremendous meeting and thank you very much Pam Waters for coming all the way down here from Orlando with all your beautiful flowers and the very informative presentation.

Finally, the weather has broken! Now for repotting and getting ready for the big show that's coming up in just a few weeks. We will still need volunteers to help us on both Saturday and Sunday with the show. Without your help the shows are very difficult for just a few people to put on. After all the society belongs to you. The more you put into it the more you're going to get out of it. So again, if you have anything Rundell know what you have. He will figure out if we have the room and if we already have enough of what you have. Driftwood, boat oars, buoys, etc. all could be used in our display. If you have an artist flair your assistance in setting up the display on Friday would be greatly appreciated.

And in closing, a friendly reminder that this month, March, is the last month for your dues to be paid. April 1 if your dues are not in, you'll be dropped from the roster, and of course you will lose all benefits of the Nature Coast Orchid Society. I certainly don't want to lose anybody. We have a fine group of people. So please pay your dues. Your society can do more for you in all aspects of our agenda to bring you information, plants, camaraderie, etc. with your paid dues.

Until I see everyone at the show!

Happy growing

S



Membership Notes for December

By Arlene Appelbaum

For a complete membership list send a message to ncos2gether@gmail.com.

We currently have 52 paid members for the 2021 calendar year. I want to offer a big thank you to all who have sent me checks to renew their membership.,

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

If your 2021 dues are not received by the end of March, you will be dropped from the members roster and therefore no longer receive the Keiki. You will miss our informative monthly meetings and the opportunity to increase you knowledge of orchids, their care, and trouble shooting of potential problems.

I am planning to be at the show on March 20 and 21st at which time I will be bringing membership cards and receipts for all who have paid their dues. Hope to see you there.

Arlene

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 page 13

- I. Ireland is home to _____ native species of orchids
 - A. 30
 - B. 300
 - C. 1000
 - D. None
- 2. Where do Ireland's native orchids grow?
 - A. Fields
 - B. Bogs
 - C. Limetone crevices
 - D. All of the above
- 3. All of Ireland's native orchids are terrestrial
 - A. True
 - B. False
- 4. Blooming season for Irish orchids is
 - A. Jan April
 - B. May June
 - C. July September
 - D. Oct Dec
- 5. A common orchid of Ireland is
 - A. Bee Orchid
 - B. Pyramidal Orchid
 - C. Fly Orchid
 - D. All of the above

January, 2021 Speaker Notes

The following notes were missed in the February newsletter and we didn't want anyone to miss out on the great information. (Editor)

The speaker for the month of January was Louis of Louis Del Favero Orchids from Tampa, Florida. He gave a discussion on *Dendrobium* orchid species and how we should care for them during the winter months. In particular, which plants do we continue to water year-round and which ones do we withhold water from in order to encourage blooming.

Most people don't realize that there are only a few species of *Dendrobiums* that require a dry rest period during the winter months to encourage blooming. During this time you want to discontinue the use of fertilizers and significantly decrease, but not withhold entirely, the amount of water that they receive. As the winter months progress, the leaves of these orchid species will yellow, wither and die. The plant will appear as though it may be near death. This is all normal and part of the process. These species should be exposed to the cooler temperatures to encourage blooming, while taking care to prevent frost from developing on the plants. Typically, as soon as temperatures begin to cool off, which is usually around Thanksgiving in Florida, the dry rest period should begin. As soon as you see the flower buds begin to form start to water and fertilize the plant again so that it has that energy to put into the flowers. Species such as Dendrobium anosmum, Den. parishii, Den. aggregatum, and the nobile-type Dendrobiums all require a dry rest period in order to bloom. In the case of the nobiletype Dendrobiums expose to nighttime temperatures in the mid-50s for a period of 5 days is required to initiate blooming. With some of these plants you might notice nothing at first - seeming as if your blooms developed all at once overnight. The vast majority of Dendrobium orchid species are not tolerant of cold temperatures requiring warm humid conditions and consistent water and fertilizer throughout the year. Dendrobium hercoglossum and Den. Bracteosum are two examples of warm loving species that produce clusters of long-lasting fragrant flowers on pendulous canes. The Phalaenopsistype cane Dendrobiums, commonly found at most big box stores, is another variety that likes consistent moisture throughout the year. If grown correctly these plants can reward the grower with long-lasting blooms several times a year. Dendrobium hodgkinsonii is another warm growing species that is gaining in popularity. This species and its hybrids are available in a variety of different colors with interesting spotting on the flower petals.

If you choose to include *Dendrobiums* in your orchid collection the key is to do your own research when selecting plants to confirm what growing conditions they need in order to thrive and bloom year after year. Read up on their native habitats and consult with more experienced growers to find out what conditions are ideal. *Dendrobium* is a large genus of orchids containing more than 1,800 species from a number of diverse habitats. When growing *Dendrobiums* you could choose to focus on flower variety and colors or appreciate plants for their foliage or an interesting growth habit. With such a diverse genus there is a little bit of something for everyone to love.

February, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Steve Mattana welcomed everyone to our February meeting. Steve provided the club's treasury report. As of a few days ago from our February 20th meeting date the balance of our account was \$8,091.29. Currently the club has 47 paid members and 83 members that have not paid their dues. The club has a total roster of 130 people. As of April 1st if you are not current having paid your club dues for the year you will be dropped from the member roster and will no longer receive a copy of our newsletter. You can send your membership dues via post to Ms. Arlene Appelbaum at 3 Portulaca Court, Homosassa, FL 34446. Membership dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family.

Mary Lou Mattana mentioned that we are still in need of volunteers to help with next month's orchid show. Our show entitled Orchid Island will be held next month on Saturday, March 27th and Sunday, March 28th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please see Mary Lou to sign up if you are able to help out with our show. We are in need of individuals who would like to assist the AOS judges as clerks and people to help out at the entry table. For those members providing blooming plants to be featured in our orchid display Matt Riesz will need your plants (including a list) dropped off as early as possible on the Friday before the show. As the show name suggests we will have a centralized elliptical display or "island" of orchids with vendors situated around the exhibit. Jeff Rundell, who is assisting with the organization of our show, is in need of nautical themed materials to help round out our orchid display. If you have items such as sponges, shells, driftwood, etc. please contact Jeff via email to see if what you have might be a good fit for the theme of our show.

Steve mentioned that he has with him at today's meeting the fertilizer from Norman and the Megathrive for those individuals that preorder those items. Please see Steve to receive your order.

Jeff mentioned that the club has been contacted by the Nature Coast Gardens in Spring Hill in regards to orchid plant donations for their shade garden houses. The botanical gardens would appreciate any plants that members could spare to be featured in their shade gardens. Preferred plants would be mounted or hanging orchids that would be hardy and able to be grown outside. Please contact Jeff within the next 3 weeks if you would be able to donate any plants to the botanical gardens.

Our speaker for this month was Pam Waters who discussed Rhyncostylis gigantea and Rhyncolaelia digbyana.

The raffle was drawn and the meeting adjourned.

February, 2021 Speaker Notes—Pam Waters

Our speaker for the month of February was Pam Waters from Orchids In Bloom out of Apopka, Florida. She gave a talk about how she grows some of the orchids in her greenhouse. One of Pam's favorite orchids to grow is Rhynchostylis gigantea. This plant is native to Asia and can be found in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. This is not a difficult plant to grow and it will reward the grower with beautiful blooms and a pleasant odor. It takes about 3 years for this species to grow

from seedling size to become large enough to bloom. During the first and second bloom period for this plant only a single bloom spike will be produced. However, as the plant ages and matures growers will be rewarding with between 2-5 bloom spikes per plant. You must be somewhat patient as it can take upwards of 7-10 years in order for this plant to get big and showy. This plant is available in a variety of different colors including cartoon, which is purple and white spotted, and red, though not a true red but rather a purple color. Each year Pam hand pollinates her plants to create seed pods to send over to Thailand to create the next crop of hybrid plants. She is very excited to introduce some peach and alba (white) colorations with her next batch of seedling plants.

Rhynchostylis gigantea can be grown similar to Vanda culture. You can grow them using no potting media simply attached to a wire or positioned in a hanging basket. They can also be grown using a variety of different medias. Choosing how to grow your plant and what media to use is really just a matter of personal preference. Your choice, however, should be influenced by your watering frequency, growing conditions, and the amount of time you have available to devote to caring for your plants. If you choose to grow them using no media, meaning just the hanging roots exposed to the air in their environment, it is necessary to water them thoroughly every day. If you pot them using a media mixture of bark, charcoal, and sponge rock then they should be watered a minimum of once a week. When utilizing a bark mixture Pam's preferred ratio is 60% bark, 20% charcoal, and 20% sponge rock. Finally, if you decide to plant them in sphagnum moss they should be watered less frequently, only once every 14 days. This is the method that Pam choses for her plants since her time is limited and she has over 500,000 plants in her greenhouse to care for. It is important to remember that if your growing area is outdoors this is a warm growing species and must be brought inside if the temperature dips below 55F.

Another orchid that she grows in her greenhouse is Rhyncholaelia digbyana a plant that is native to Central America and countries like Mexico and Guatemala. This orchid features unusual looking lime green colored flower with a fringed lip. Unlike other species, this orchid does not have a well-defined bloom period, instead it tends to bloom when the conditions are right whenever it feels like. This plant prefers higher light levels of about 80% but not full sun. It is perfectly normal for this orchid to have a white powder-like residue on the leaves of healthy plants. Rhyncholaelia digbyana is a member of the Cattleya alliance of orchids. Cattleyas are extremely long-lived plants and it is not uncommon for a well-cared for plant to live upwards of 30-50 years or more.

For Pam she waters the plants inside her greenhouse once every two weeks and utilizes a fertilizer every 30 days. From May-August she uses a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer on her plants, and between September-November she uses a 10-30-20 fertilizer to feed her plants. In order to avoid fungal problems with your plants it is essential to water your plants early in the morning. Pam recommends having all of your plants watered by 10:00 am so that they have plenty of time to dry out before the end of the day. It is up to the grower's discretion whether or not a plant may be in need of repotting. Some orchids can actually be content and even bloom better when grown completely rootbound. If you need to repot your orchid it is best to do so when you see new root growth, which typically occurs in spring and summer when temperatures warm. Pam's typical method for potting up her plants is to start them out in a 4" pot and allow the plant to grow for 2 years, then move the plant into a 6" pot, allow for 3 years of plant growth, then move the plant into an 8, 10 or 12" pot. Like with anything else growing orchids successfully will take some time and you might not excel at everything you try to grow. Even an expert grower like Pam admitted that she has trouble growing Catasetum orchids. However, with a little knowledge you too can grow orchids just as beautifully as Pam Waters.

NCOS Show Table 2-20-2021

Plant Name Grower

Rl. glauca Jeff Rundell Den. Oriental Smile 'Butterfly' **Gary Gethen** Ascda. Suksamran Sunlight Sue Caparbi-Taylor Phal. tetraspis f. alba Corbin Beller Ro Wenz Onc. Sharry Baby Clty. Spring Fragrance 'Paradise' Jeff Rundell Corbin Beller Pda. Batram Jeff Rundell Encyclia cordigera Galeopetalum Arlene Armour 'Conching' Ro Wenz Ro Wenz Bc. Hybrid - orange, from Bud Spence Bc. Golf Green 'Hair Pig' Jeff Rundell Rhyncostylis gigantea x sib Sue Caparbi-Taylor Dendrochilum cobbianum Corbin Beller Ludisia discolor Matt Riesz Maxillaria variabilis Matt Riesz Matt Riesz Cyclopogon lindleyanus Rl. Aristocrat Matt Riesz Coelogyne Jannine Banks 'Snow White' Matt Riesz







Bc. North Miami 'Florida Suncoast'



Steve Mattana

More pictures from our beautiful show table at the February meeting. Thanks to everyone who graciously shared their plants with us!

















More pictures from our beautiful show table at the February meeting. Thanks to everyone who graciously shared their plants with us!













Coelogyne Orchids

With Corbin Beller

Let's talk about Coelogyne orchids! First we need to talk about the subtribe Coelogyninae, this subtribe includes some very cool orchids such as the rattlesnake orchid or Pholidota imbricata. It also includes Dendrochilum orchids, if you attended the last meeting you saw Dendrochilum cobbianum and Coelogyne Janine Banks "Snow White" exhibited on our show table. These three species, Coelogyne, Dendrochilum and

Pholidota are the most commonly known in the Coelogyninae family. This subtribe is commonly known for producing bloom spikes from the apex of an immature new growth, making these some very unique orchids indeed. Now that we have covered a little bit in the subtribe we can talk about the genus Coelogyne.



Coel. cristata

Coelogynes are unique from all other orchids even in its subtribe. They have a free lip, meaning that the lip is completely free from the labellum. The labellum is missing the saccate base present in other orchid species. The free lip in coelo-



Coel. Jannine Banks 'Snow White'

gyne has high lateral lobes, often very smooth and silky feeling. The "floor" of the lip is most often grooved, toothed or warted making for some very interesting textures.

Coelogynes are either cool growers or warm to hot growers. Unfortunately, in our Florida climate it can be challenging to grow the cool growers such as the species Coelogyne cristata. Cristata has the largest flower in the whole genus even though it has some of the smallest foliage and pseudobulbs. Cristata can vary in size in relation to its altitude, the higher up it is the smaller the plant and vice versa. The ones located in the higher altitudes need a cool dry rest. "Dry" is relative because humidity in the air is quite high and like a cloud during the winter. Those found at lower altitudes don't really need the dry rest to bloom. The cool growers are often found along the Himalayan region of India and southeast Asia. The intermediate to hot growers such as the famous Coelogyne rochussenii are found throughout Thailand and other islands around it. Coelo-

gyne can have pendant blooms out the genus and both styles often will bloom from mature after the bulb has matured in fall. couple of inches and having a long like in Coelogyne pulverula, having over fifty blooms on one (growing on rock faces); epiterrestrial (growing on fallen grow on fallen trees and not on keep in mind that plants growing crevices that collect organic

Many species of Coelogyne can all. We need to keep in mind potting them up. Most Coelonot wet -there is a difference-,



Coel. rochussenii

or erect blooms. This is random throughcan be found all over. The pendant most bulbs preceding new growths in spring or Flower spikes can be small only being a couple of flowers. They also can be very reaching lengths of over four feet long and spike! Coelogynes can be lithophytes phytes (growing on trees); or they can be trees). Take notice that terrestrial types the ground in the dirt. We also need to on rock faces are growing in the natural matter.

be found growing all three ways, but not how the species grows in the wild before gynes will want to be constantly moist but and just approaching dryness but never really drying out. This is why most of the time you will not see coelogynes mounted. Sphagnum moss is a great media for Coelogynes, however it does not allow for much air flow unless you're growing in a basket. Most of my Coelogyne mixes include 40% moss, 50% bark and 10% inorganic media such as charcoal. This will suit most species in this genus.

Now light, how much sun does my Coelogyne need??? This can be a complicated question as it depends on the species. Some need intermediate cattleya light, while others need more of a phalaenopsis light. This is why it is important to research your orchids before you buy them. If your Coelogyne is not blooming there could be several reasons:

- I. It might need more light. Are your leaves dark green or light green? You don't want dark green leaves on your Coelogyne; this is a sign it isn't receiving proper sunlight.
- 2. It might not be big enough. How big is your plant? Is it a mature plant with multiple growths to support blooms? As I mentioned above some Coelogyne species bloom at the apex of a new immature growth so if your plant doesn't have enough back bulls then it cannot support a flower spike with a new growth. The new growth will grow hardly while in bloom not even producing roots. This is why it's important to have multiple healthy bulbs.
- 3. It might need more food. If you came to the last meeting we had the opportunity to get our hands on some of the best fertilizer on the market. Norman's optimal orchid nutrients! Norman created this formula himself, having years of a chemistry major in his background. He just didn't like the results and ingredients in many of the other fertilizers on the market so he crafted his own and now has made it available to the public. This fertilizer when used properly and with the Mega Thrive will produce fantastic large growths to support the next year's blooms!

Coelogyne is one of my favorite genera of orchids and I wanted to share a little about it so others could care for them properly. Coelogyne are truly unique in the orchid world!







Coel. usitana

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	March 02, 2021 8:30pm EST Tuesday	March 09, 2021 8:30 pm EST Tuesday	March 13, 2021 2:00pm EST Saturday	April 08, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) Send in your Questions!	Star Search: Judging Angraecoid Orchids	Semi-Annual Meeting of the Members Space is Limited Register NOW!	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) Send in your Questions!
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Beth Martin AOS Associate Judge	AOS Officers, Staff, Committee Chairs, Member Volunteers	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer

Just click on: http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx and you can watch these videos at your convenience.

ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

Coming in March 2021

- Tom's Monthly Checklist
- For the Novice Stakes by Carlos Macku
- Collectors' Item Bulbophyllum section Macrobulbon by Charles Wilson
- Questions & Answers by Ron McHatton
- The New Refugium Botanicum Rhynchostylis gigantea by Franco Pupulin
- Orchid People Karen Kimmerle by Tom Mirenda
- Orchids Illustrated Augusta Withers: Flower Painter in Ordinary by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- Colombia's Tatamá National Park by Spiro Kasomenakis
- Orchid Roots by Fred Clarke
- Atlanta Botanical Garden: a beacon for orchid conservation by Philip Seaton
- Bulbophyllum (Trias) oblongum and Andrew Thomas Gage by Rudolf Jenny
- Lindleyana: Two New Species of Sudamerlycaste from Southwestern Ecuador, José Portilla, Hugo Medina and Iván Portilla

Some recent awards, found in OrchidPro







AD | AOS (0 points) Award #20196652

AQ | AOS (0 points) Award #20211263

JC | AOS (0 points) Award #20211276

AOS awards are granted on merit - Not every type of award receives a point score

AD (Award of Distinction)

Awarded once to a cross representing a worthy new direction in Breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned.

Paphiopedilum Hawaiian Moon AD | AOS (0 points)

(Paphiopedilum Silver Moon x Paphiopedilum Egret's Jewel)

Award No: 20196652, Hybridizer: Lehua Orchids, Exhibitor Stanley Luk , Photographer: Judy Higham

AQ (Award of Quality)

Awarded once to a cross exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 plants or inflorescences of different clones of a hybrid or cultivated species. At least one of the inflorescences must receive a flower quality award and the overall quality of the group must be an improvement over the former type.

Rhyncholaelia Aristocrat AQ | AOS (0 points)

'(Rhyncholaelia glauca 'Crystelle' AM/AOS x Rhyncholaelia digbyana 'Fiddler's Green')'

Award No: 20211263, Exhibitor: Krull-Smith, Photographer: Kay Clark

JC (Judges' Commendation)

Given for distinctive characteristics that the judges unanimously feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways.

Cattleya Rose Marguglio Szwed 'Big Bear's Marbled Queen' JC | AOS (0 points)

(Cattleya Melody Fair x Cattleya Circle of Life)

Award No: 20211276, Exhibitor: Ryan Kowalczyk, Photographer: Wes Newton

YOUR ORCHID LIBRARY

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: c1948ogden@gmail.com



Answers to quiz

- 1. A (30)
- 2. D (All of the above)
- 3. D (True)
- 4. B (May June)
- 5. D (All of the above)