

# **GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY**

## **THE ORCHID COLUMN**

**CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR**

**October 8, 2017**



### **ORCHID GROWING TIPS KEITH DAVIS**

Our October speaker, Keith Davis was born in California but moved to Mexico in 1959 with his missionary parents when eight years old. In 1974 he attended North Carolina State University where he obtained degrees in forestry, horticulture and agricultural education. After school, he moved to Corpus Christi, Texas where he worked on an oil rig and taught horticulture and purchased his first orchid at a yard sale. It was Lc. Molly Tyler FCC which he still has to this day. After moving to Reidsville, NC in 1984, Keith worked 19 years for North Carolina State University as the grounds and greenhouse superintendent at Chinqua-Penn Plantation owned by the university. In 1997, he and his wife Dixie, adopted their only child, April LeeAndra, for which many of his best orchids are named. Keith is now retired and looks after three farms, his greenhouse full of orchids and helps with a new grandson named Bentley. In August of 2002, a disaster struck his orchid collection when the power went off at the greenhouse he was leasing. The temperature soared to over 130 degrees and about 90% of his large collection of mainly cattleya alliance orchids was lost. Thanks to many friends, the generosity of orchid growers far and wide and his breeding program, Keith is well on his way back to having a respectable collection again. Much information for his programs comes from personal experience, research, trial and error, and gleaning from a host of orchid growers through the years. Keith enjoys the "hunt" for those rare and hard to find plants and gladly helps other growers out. Questions are encouraged during the talk and later by email if interested

Keith's email is: [dowiana51@gmail.com](mailto:dowiana51@gmail.com) His web site is [www.keithdavisorchids.com](http://www.keithdavisorchids.com)





**A picture of Keith Davis and just the sort of plant he can grow**

We usually meet the second Sunday of the month at the Rainbow Library 3150 Buffalo at Cheyenne at the Meeting Room. Live Piano music at 1. Meeting 2.

October 8 Keith Davis "Orchid Growing Tips"

November 12 Steve Frowine "Fantastic Phals"

December 10 Holiday Party Home Carol Siegel

January 14, 2018 Tom Mirenda "Orchids of Costa Rica"

February 11 Jason Fischer "Growing on a Log"

March 11 Ron Kaufmann "Orchids of Tropical America"

April 8 Carol Siegel "Orchids of Hawaii"

And Luau Dancers and Singers!"

May 13 Harold Koopowitz "Slipper Orchids"

June 3 Peter Lin

July 8 Norman Fang "Harlequin Orchids"

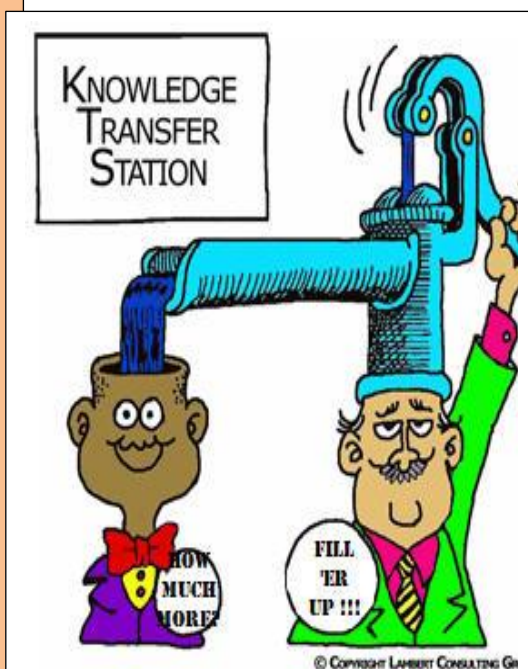
August 12 Mark Romansky

September 9 Diana Smith

Oct 14 Fred Clarke "Modern Cattleyas and How to Grow Them"

Nov 11 Cathy Loftfield "Lycaste"

December 9, 2018 Holiday Party



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Keith will present many growing ideas. The poem below is a tongue-in-cheek homage to orchid experts. Also, there is an article on *Cattleya* growing by Keith attached to the newsletter that I think you will enjoy. Many thanks to Steve Hochman for housing and hosting Keith Davis. Thanks in advance to our food team for October, Diana Smith, Cheryl Sago, Lee Kirschbaum, Shirley Grieg and Gail Harris. We welcomed Darion Swartz and Adrian Graff at our September meeting and were glad to have them.

## SPEAKING OF SPEAKERS

Carol Siegel

The speaker in January gave quite a firm warning  
“Only water your orchids first thing in the morning.  
Never, oh never, water orchids at night  
Or the dust for sure they will certainly bite.”

The speaker in February laughed at that with glee  
“So you think in the jungle high up in the tree  
When the moon is full, there is no tropical rain  
Well, if you think that, think it over again.”

What, oh what, is a member to do  
Now for sure I haven’t a clue.  
One says yes, and the other says no  
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in March said to grow only species  
To try to preserve their ecological niches.  
“It is up to us to save orchid kind  
If you grow hybrids, you’re out of your mind.”

The speaker in April thought that was a hoot  
He firmly advised us to give him the boot.  
“Hybrids are pretty, hybrids are better  
If you breed hybrids, you’ll be a trendsetter.”

What, oh what, is a member to do  
Now for sure I haven’t a clue  
One says yes, and the other says no,  
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in May really was very bossy.  
He strongly advised we grow only sphagnum mossy.  
“Moss is strong and moss is clean  
And you’ll hardly have to water in between”.

The speaker in June nearly fell on the floor  
He loudly told us we should have shown him the door.  
“Kiwi bark is the best, as everyone knows  
To grow great orchids that win all the shows.”

What, oh what is a member to do  
Now for sure, I haven't a clue  
One says yes, and the other says no  
How am I supposed to know how to grow.  
The speaker in July stressed watering with rain  
Though collecting it during drought proves a very big pain.  
"The rain is pure, and the rain can't be beat  
Anything else and orchids are dead meat."

The speaker in August heard this with dismay  
He advised if we did this we would rue the day.  
"What you want is de-ionized, ladies and gents,  
Just don't give any thought to the recurring expense."

What, oh what is a member to do  
Now for sure, I haven't a clue  
One says yes, and the other says no  
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in September liked only clay pots  
He only used these, and he certainly had lots.  
"They retain the water and leech out the salts  
As a place to grow they don't have any faults."

The speaker in October said he had a bone to pick  
He said the only way to grow was mounted on a stick.  
"It's how they grow out in nature you see  
I never have to repot so it's great for me."

What, oh what is a member to do  
Now for sure, I haven't a clue  
One says yes, and the other says no  
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in November liked to foliar feed  
For fertilizing the bark he saw no need.  
"Just spray it on the leaves and let it work  
Doing anything else makes you a jerk."

The speaker in December came to our holiday party  
He drank lots of booze and ate really hearty.  
He confessed nobody knows just what to do  
And he gave us advice that we'll pass on to you.

Enjoy your orchids and give them your heart  
Take lots of time and love them from the start.  
Orchids are like children, and there is no one right way  
Like Darwin, remember they are really just play.

