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Next Meeting is on Thursday, April 21st, 7:30pm -10:00pm
Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive
McHale Room

Keith Davis: Superior Culture for Cattleyas



Keith Davis was born in California but moved to Mexico with his missionary parents when eight years old in 1959. 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.

Keith's talk SUPERIOR CULTURE FOR CATTLEYAS will focus on how to fine tune the basics so that your culture will become a cut above the normal. The underlying thread will be on how to grow a massive root system which is a prerequisite to growing any orchid to its best potential. The talk is presented in a common sense approach but shows tips and tricks that many growers overlook or don't think about. It will be fun and interactive. A handout will be provided detailing products and ideas mentioned in the talk.

Plant Table will be provided by Yunor Peralta

Speaker's Dinner before the meeting is at 5:30 pm at China Lounge (Sichuan Fortune House), 41 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill.

Everyone is welcome to attend and meet our speaker. Please notify Eileen Jackson eileen.jackson@att.net by March 16th for a reservation.