Volume 66, Issue 1 January 14, 2024

#### Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Orchid Society

# BROS News

www.batonrougeorchidsociety.com



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#### **January Meeting Information**

Our January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, at the Burden Conference Center at 7pm.

(Please watch your email for any updates on potential closure to the Burden Conference Center due to cold weather)

Program Info: While we were looking forward to having Mary Richardson present at our upcoming meeting, the potential closure to Burden conference center due the cold weather has prompted the decision to cancel her visit to Baton Rouge from Lake Charles. We will still be discussing Phalaenopsis orchids, and knowledgeable individuals from BROS will discuss how to care for these orchids. We will also use some of our program time to discuss the Foster Orchid Program and getting this amazing endeavor back under way in our society.





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# President's Message



# President's Message January, 2024

Happy New Year to all the BROS members and newsletter subscribers. I hope the Christmas holidays were as good for you as for Nancy and myself. As incoming president, I want to thank the folks that served

BROS during this past year including our outgoing President Frank McMains and our Program Co-Chairs Patty Granier and Lata Johnson. They have been in those roles for several years and we all appreciate the time and effort they put in for BROS. Also, thank you to all the renewing members that support BROS in so many ways.

We had both good news and unwelcome news in 2023. We moved our annual show from the Burden Conference Center to the Rural Life Museum which provided a good deal more room to conduct the show. We grew membership during the year to over 130 members. But unfortunately, we sadly lost two of our dearest friends, Danna Spayde, and Carolyn Clay, and we miss them dearly.

We have some goals for this year that will be welcomed by our members. A primary mission for BROS is orchid education for members and the public. Geoff Frost, our new program chair, plans to bring in speakers on a variety of topics during 2024. We also hope to have some hands-on member participation meetings as well.

Patty Granier, Kathy Conerly, and Lata Johnson are working on reviving the "Orchids for Seniors" program that the late Danna Spayde had championed for so many years. We expect to change the name of this group, which is targeted at anyone that would like to attend but especially for those individuals that cannot attend our monthly meetings. This program will initially be held at the Goodwood Library and will be held during daylight hours.

Another goal that I have is to revive the "Foster Orchid" program. Prior to Covid, BROS members were offering to rebloom donated orchids from some retailers so that our members could donate the plants to members of the public that were in the hospital or other care facilities. We have been told by family members that these plants really brighten the day of folks fighting various illnesses. I encourage the members of BROS to participate in the program. Thanks to Jeanette Foster for Chairing the program.

Many other items are on this year's agenda, and I look forward to working with all the BROS members to make sure 2024 is a wonderful year for the Baton Rouge Orchid Society.

Jim

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# **Christmas Party 2023 Photos**

## MEMBERS HAD A GREAT TIME MEETING, MINGLING, AND MUNCHING!















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# **BROS Membership News**

Happy 2024 Everybody!

Time to start planning goals and adventures for 2024. Hope they include BROS. We can't survive without you.

Jeanette put lots of effort into providing a winter wonderland for our Christmas party. She was so busy taking care of all of us, she never got to eat! That is dedication! Everybody brought delectable dishes that I still think about.

An effort was made to provide all "elves" that have worked hard this year with one of Gene Berg's beautiful orchids. If anybody got left out, it was not intentional. We value the help and ideas of everyone.

All of you looked so festive in the photos. Thank you for participating. Jim is planning to put them on the website with permission from each person. Photos are a great way to recognize each other.

We had a total of 45 members and guests that signed the attendance record.

I wish to welcome some new members to the membership committee: Pam Aucoin, Shirley Nesom and Mariette Acocello. I am sooo happy to have them on board! I welcome their help and ideas.

January birthdays:

1/1 Chris Lopiparo1/14 Pete Kennedy1/5 Bob Lank1/20 Terry Rehn1/5 Glenn Gawarecki1/22 Wanda Gawarecki1/5 Diane Knobloch1/29 Mariette Acocella1/6 Megan Maxwell1/30 Heidi Morgan1/10 Eunice Cordero1/30 Danna Sue Spayde1/12 JoLynn Golden1/ Ronald Broussard

Happy Birthday one and all! Please let me know if I have forgotten anybody or made an error.

#### **Nancy Morrison**

Membership Chairman

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# **BROS Daytime Meetings Resume!**

Patty Granier, Kathy Conerly, and Lata Johnson are reviving the daytime meeting program formerly known as "Orchids for Seniors" that the late Danna Spayde championed for so many years. We expect to change the name of this group, which is targeted at anyone that would like to attend, but especially for those individuals that cannot attend our monthly meetings.

Meeting will be held at the Goodwood Library on January 25th at 10:00am in Meeting Room "D".



## Save the date for the Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show!



#### 22nd Annual Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show

Friday, March 8th 5:00 p.m.- 8:00p.m.
Saturday, March 9th 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 10th 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
John M. Parker Agricultural Coliseum Highland Road,
LSU Campus, Baton Rouge

#### **Show Information:**

The 2024 Spring Garden Show will feature exhibitor displays for plant sales, production, garden accessories, crafts, and other products and services related to the garden industry. Also featured will be plant health and identification clinics.

**Admission:** General admission will be \$10.00 per person for the Spring Garden Show. A senior citizen discount will be offered at \$7.00 per person. Children 12 and under will be admitted free of charge.

The garden show is great opportunity to sign up as a volunteer to represent BROS!!

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#### **December Short Course Info**

Louisiana Short Course, December 2, 2023 - Lake Charles

Several BROS members ventured to Lake Charles to attend the annual short course in December. The presenters were Thahn Nguyen from Springwater Orchids and Peter Lin, Big Leaf Orchids. Each speaker presented twice. Nguyen spoke of *Everything about Growing Orchids* and *Twelve Recommended Species* for the warm South. Lin's presentations were *Growing Phals* and *Blue Phals*. The information was geared toward warm growing orchids and for members of varying experiences. BROS members left with more tips in their orchid growing toolbox and some of the very nice plants that were for sale. The Short Course was a wonderful experience and we were all appreciative of the hospitality shown by the Calcasieu Orchid Society.

-Kathy Conerly

# **BROS Short Course Participants**





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# It's Show Time!!

Do you want to learn more about orchids and which varieties grow best in our area? Would you like the opportunity to purchase plants and products from out-of-state vendors? How about getting in touch with your artistic

or organizational side? Or possibly winning awards? If you said yes to any of these questions, WE NEED YOU!

The Spring is the major season for orchid shows all through the Gulf Coast area. The societies, like BROS, schedule local shows and invite other societies to participate. If we accept, a team gathers members' blooming plants on the Thursday before the show and prepare them for display. Members take turns setting up the displays and taking them down. There are opportunities to network with other growers and vendors (who are usually experienced growers) and learn tips on being successful. It's a lot of fun!

Our first upcoming show will be the **Gulf Coast Orchid Society show in Gauthier, MS, on Feb. 2-4**. The next show out of town will be **Calcasieu Orchid Society in Lake Charles April 5-7**.

Please consider signing up to assist at these and other upcoming shows. These are great opportunities to learn, network and grow!

# Save the Date for the BROS Orchid Show!

Don't forget to save the date for our very own orchid show!

# The BROS Orchid Show will be held July 11-14

We will need lots of help from our members to get prepared for the show, as well as with hospitality, clerking, and set up and take down of display, etc. We are asking for theme suggestions. (Last

year's theme was *Orchids on the Bayou*). We will be discussing important show information in the coming months, and are looking forward to any and all assistance from our members!



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### **January Conservatory Beauties**

Photo and Identification by Glenn Gawarecki

We are continuing to use our newsletter to highlight some of our blooming Conservatory orchids monthly by name. This is a great way for members to see and become more familiar with the names and characteristics of some of our beautiful blooms. Here are our latest highlights:



Bct. Empress Worsley 'Roman Holiday'



Lc. Sylvan Sprite 'Blythe Spirit'



Rlc. Chyong Guu Benz

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# **Conservatory Orchids: For and By the Community**

#### By Frank Zachariah and Eron Borne

What can the AOS do to interest the youth of today in orchids? This question has been consistently addressed by the Education Committee of the AOS. For any orchid lovers who are involved in Girl or Boy Scouting, we have developed an Interest Project and an iron—on Patch. One excellent idea is to have Girl or Boy Scouts help with local orchid society projects to earn patches.





#### Pictured above:

Scouts potting up crosses from Baton Rouge Orchid Society (BROS) members.

The latest Scout project comes to us from the LSU Orchid Conservatory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Frank Zachariah, the Conservatory Chair, says it all began about four years ago when the Baton Rouge Orchid Society said "Let's start an Orchid Conservatory on the grounds of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge." Frank says "it was an ambitious undertaking with the goal of growing orchids that do well here (and attempting to grow those that don't)." The Conservatory now has a Memorial Collection to honor families' prized treasures, a dedicated Seedling Section for local enthusiasts that are trying their hand at hybridizing, and a potting bench for demonstrations so members can learn 'hands-on' how to grow these in their homes. They also have weekly volunteers that keep the Conservatory tidy and moving forward. Fortunately, the garden's Director and his staff have also actively been involved in maintaining the collection. The public is allowed to stroll through and see what grows there, and the Conservatory changes out flowers on display to make a visit to this already attractive Botanical Garden, an even more enjoyable experience.

The interest and donations to the Conservatory have been overwhelming! There are now several thousand orchids, from seedlings to specimens, of which 600 are in a special Mounted Display. The orchids are outside under shade cloth from late March to early November. Since south Louisiana is a subtropical rain forest, this creates many challenges -- from pests and tropical storms to weeds and sanitation.

One important group in our community that has helped keep the Conservatory maintained are the Boy Scouts. Frank says "We have a handful of Scouts that come three times a year to help out as fulfillment of their conservation requirement. It is also a way for the boys (and their dads) to spend quality time doing something fun and of value to the community."

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# **Conservatory Orchids: For and By the Community**

#### By Frank Zachariah and Eron Borne

There are about 30 boys in Troop 888 chartered under Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. The Scouts are always eager to help out wherever they are needed. no matter the task. A major undertaking was counting every orchid in the Conservatory. giving us our first accurate inventory. Grand Total: 3,421 plants! The boys printed up new labels for plants with smudged or broken tags. They deflasked and potted up members' hybridized seedlings. In addition, the Scouts also created mounts and added them to the Conservatory Mounted Display. Frank states "since orchids can take an interminably long time to bloom, these kids will certainly get to enjoy these flowers more than our senior members. Our hope is to keep them interested during those growing years." The AOS is providing every Scout a patch for their participation and each Scout receives a blooming Phalaenopsis to give to their mom. For most, we are sure it will be the first orchid they kill. But they are encouraged to come back and get another (and another) until they become successful.





Pictured left:
Replacing old and broken labels with new tags.

Troop 888 schedules about three work-days a year and fifteen Scouts have helped out for the past three years. The goal is to expand to other local troops and other youth organizations. By inspiring in the next generation a stewardship and appreciation of the remarkable beauty of nature, we are hoping to keep our passion for the orchid family blooming for decades to come!

If you are interested in the Scout Interest Project, please contact the AOS Education Committee at education committee@aos.org.

-Eron Borne and Frank Zachariah



The AOS badge



Pictured above: Counting the mounts to update the inventory.

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Another new feature of our 2024 BROS Newsletter will help solve growing issues our BROS members are experiencing. Members can send photos/descriptions of ailing orchids to BROS at <a href="mailto:info@batonrougeorchidsociety.com">info@batonrougeorchidsociety.com</a>, and Our BROS experts will help by replying with advice on culture tips that will go to the member as well as be placed in the next newsletter!

#### Dear BROS,

Help! I am devastated that I seem to have something invading my greenhouse that is beginning to destroy my orchids. As you can see from the photos, it begins as a yellowing of the leaves and then spots appear as the leaves dry out one by one and fall off the plant. I have always used insecticidal soap & neem oil treatments, and when that didn't seem to work I began using a copper fungicide as well as an overall Fungicidal treatment (that has copper as an ingredient). It seemed to be getting better, but is now coming back again as you can see from the photos I've included. Please help!

Kathy Lopiparo





#### Kathy,

- 1. As a first assessment, this doesn't appear to be bacterial or insect/mite.
- 2. The pseudobulb still looks green so it is not a systemic, fungi-like fusarium or phytophthora. This is very good news.
- 3. The lesions (spots) are very few and far apart. They did not cause the leaf to die. The fungus is probably not parasitic (a pathogen causing the yellowing) but rather saprophytic -- a fungus taking advantage of an already dead/dying leaf. Very common here in La.
- 4. That would point to the problem as being cultural.
  - 4a. Could these be the oldest leaves? Going into fall with less light and restricted watering, the plant may have decided to slough them now.
  - 4b. Could the plant have experienced a water or temp stress (either hi/lo) about a month ago? This would have exacerbated the plant's need to get rid of the less useful leaves.
  - 4c. If circulation becomes less ideal, the plant can decide to do some house cleaning.

#### Going forward:

This doesn't look serious. I don't think those chemicals you used helped or hurt.

Because this happened all at once, I would suggest you make sure the circulation is adequate and temp does not get too hot during the day. (Looks like it has some Brassavola in the background. These plants can take temps in the low 40s in their habitat.) Make sure the humidity stays high -- and that should not be a problem in La.

Remove the old leaves. This should not continue. If more leaves start turning yellow, then we need to reassess the prognosis (and then look at the roots). Keep us posted on whether or not you see improvements!

-BROS

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#### "GROWING SPACES" MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS COMING IN 2024!

BROS Members, we want to see your orchid growing spaces! Send photos and an brief article to <a href="mailto:kathylopiparo@gmail.com">kathylopiparo@gmail.com</a> so we can highlight your growing spaces and your orchids in one of our newsletters in 2024 and beyond!

Not sure where to start? Here is some information to help get you writing! Remember to include 5-6 photos of your orchids in their growing space, any features of the space you would like to highlight, and any growing tips your would like to share.

- •If, growing in an outdoor structure, when did you build your structure? How costly was it?
- \*What made you decide on this type of structure for your house/yard?
- \*How is it working out for your needs? Are things growing/blooming better for you now? (or maybe pros/cons of your structure)
- \*What suggestions would you have for someone who wants to put in a structure similar to yours at their own house?
- •Any new/upcoming plans for this space?
- \*What are some tips you may want to share that are working for your needs.

# AOS AWARDS FROM THE LOUISIANA JUDGING CENTER

# **NOVEMBER AWARDS**



Phal. Joy Spring Canary 'Orange' HCC 79 Tim Brown

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# **ABOUT OUR SOCIETY**

#### 2024 BROS OFFICERS

President - Jim Morrison Vice Pres.- Glenn Gawarecki Secretary - Lanna Lytle

Treasurer - Pat Canning

**MEMBERS AT LARGE** 

Connie Miller (New MAL)
David Coco (2nd MAL)
Charles Dartez (3rd MAL)

#### **REMAINING ON BOARD**

Frank McMains - Past Pres.
Frank Zachariah - Conservatory

#### **Standing Committee Chairs**

Hospitality - Jeanette Foster
Publicity - Lowell Tilley
Programs - Geoff Frost
Membership - Nancy Morrison
Annual BROS Show-David Coco
Finance - Pat Canning
Newsletter - Kathy Lopiparo
New Orchids for Seniors Patty Granier/Kathy Conerly/
Lata Johnson



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Society

Web: https://bros.wildapricot.org

Instagram:

Don't forget to assist us by bringing appetizers, sandwiches, cookies or desserts to any upcoming monthly meeting. Contact Jeanette if you would like to sign up for September or any future meetings. Her email is fosterjeanette51@gmail.com

