

BROS News

www.batonrougeorchidsociety.com



Inside This Issue

November Meeting Info	1
President's Message	2
October Meeting Minutes	2-3
2024 BROS Election Results	3
Diamond Award of Excellence	4
October Meeting Photos	5-6
Christmas Party 2023	6
Membership News	7
COS Winter Short Course	8
Penn State Online Course	9
Conservatory News	10
Conservatory Beauties	11
BROS/Dunham Fundraiser	11
AOS Awards	12-13
Society Info	14



November Meeting Information

Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, at the Burden Conference Center at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

BROS Monthly Program Information

The American Orchid Society (AOS) along with Penn St Master Gardeners have created a class for the MGs to become more familiar with Orchids. The program named "Orchids for Everyone" held its first class on November 1. We will be offering a couple of the segments of this recorded program.

The program speaker is Barb Schmidt. Barb has been raising orchids for the last 20 years and maintains an orchid website at basorchidcare.com. She is a regular instructor for the New York botanic gardens, Longwood gardens and her local community college. She published her introductory orchid care book, the topic that she's presenting.

Segment 1 is "Orchid Physiology and Terminology" which we believe will be educational to especially our new growers.

Segment 2 is "How Orchids Grow", also very educational. We believe everyone will benefit from Barb's experience and speaking style.

President's Message



President's Note November, 2023

Hello BROS! This is my second-to-last, my penultimate, monthly note as President of the BROS. It has been a great three years. I learned a lot. Thanks to everyone who took my calls when I had questions, offered advice, and pitched in. I will be in Naples, Italy when the BROS meet on Wednesday, November 15th and I am going to miss the Christmas Party, but I will be around a lot next year.

The weather continues to be unusual. The last time we had a drought this prolonged (that I can remember) was 1998 when live oaks died and foundations cracked as the supporting ground dried and contracted. Bad news if you're an oak tree but most of my thick-leaved orchids loved the quick dry conditions.

They say El Nino conditions in our area tend to be mild and wet, this would be a welcome relief for many plants but these conditions may not be so great for our orchids. I have moved all of my orchids and tropical plants inside, under lights, for the coldest part of the year, but if I was staying in Baton Rouge for the next month then I would certainly leave my plants outside until the forecasted wet conditions arrived.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Io Saturnalia, See you in the New Year

-Frank McMains

October Meeting Notes

The program for our October meeting was a presentation on readying orchids for winter given by Glenn Gawarecki. The first consideration Glenn discussed was identifying a place for your orchids, checking out heating equipment, and how growing conditions will be monitored. Glenn reminded members that it is important to reduce fertilizer as growth rates slow; reduce watering as temperatures begin to cool, and stop watering completely in the winter period for some types of orchids. We discussed the importance of inspecting plants for pests and addressing any issues before moving plants into a confined greenhouse space to avoid infestations that can be hard to get under control once established.

The temperature and humidity monitoring device we discussed was the SensorPush (Right). A number of BROS members using this device for several years have found it to be reliable and easy to use. The device communicates with an app on your phone and provides digital as well as graphical data for temperature and humidity when your phone is within range. To monitor information remotely from anywhere with cell service requires purchase of an additional base unit that connects to wi-fi. Paired with the base unit, information recorded by the device can be monitored on your phone from anywhere with service. The watch-type battery lasts about 2 years.

(October Meeting Notes continued on page 3)



More October Meeting Notes

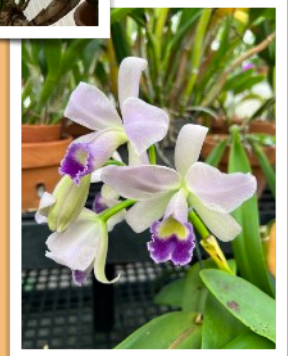
Other Information that was shared at our October meeting:

- Spring Garden Show coming in March – More details to come soon.
- This year's Calcasieu Orchid Society's Short course will be on Saturday, December 2, in Lake Charles. BROS members can go over Friday night as a group and then attend short course in AM. Jim asked for members to let him know if you are going Friday.
- Members can pre-order any orchids from Peter Lind's website to be picked up at the short course in December.
- Orchids for Seniors starting back up in January. This meeting is going to be held the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 in morning. Location will be announced soon.
- Christmas Party: If you are unable to bring a dish you can also donate money to go towards its success. Please bring your food ready to place on the buffet tables. We have no way to cook and very limited assembly space.

Glenn Gawarecki was named this year's Orchid Digest *Diamond Award of Excellence* recipient. Details of Glenn's award can be found on page 4.

2024 Officers were also voted upon and elected and other positions for the year were approved. The following are the BROS Elected Officers and Positions for the upcoming year:

2024 BROS Officers
Jim Morrison - President
Glenn Gawarecki - Vice President
Pat Canning - Treasurer
Lanna Lytle - Secretary
Members at Large (MAL)
Connie Miller - New MAL
David Coco - 2nd MAL
Charles Dartez - 3rd MAL
Remaining on Board
Frank McMains-Past President
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



Pictured above: Photos from Hal Canning's greenhouse

Glenn Gawarecki Receives 2023 Diamond Award of Excellence

Glenn Gawarecki was named the recipient for the *2023 Diamond Award of Excellence* at our October meeting for both his service to BROS and his help in promoting the growing of orchids.

Frank Zachariah shared the following about Glenn: Glenn has been a Board member of BROS for several years, rotating through several positions. Now he is Vice President and, among other things, he helps with coordinating meetings. The main reason we want to honor Glenn is that he has silently taken on thankless tasks that many members may not know about. He helped Hal build and put in our greenhouse benches. And he was instrumental in installing the irrigation systems in our greenhouse, the shade structure, and the Phal benches. He organized our members in moving the mounted grids into their winter home. And led a group of his sons and other teenagers in putting those 200- pound grids back outside last spring.

Glenn is the only BROS member who is growing orchids from seed. He has dozens of flasks of crosses. Thanks to him, BROS will be supplying Baton Rouge members and other orchid hobbyists with unique new hybrids-of-the-future not found anywhere else in the world. For these reasons, we think Glenn is deserving of this special *Diamond Award of Excellence*.

CONGRATULATIONS, GLENN!



October Meeting Photos



October Meeting Photos



Christmas Party 2023 Reminder



Save the date!

December 7th is going to be the date of our annual Christmas party. It will be in the Burden conference center! Sign up to bring a dish or beverage with Jeanette, or you can donate if you are unable to bring a dish.

Membership News

Membership Committee Report

We had a signed attendance of 42 for our October 18 meeting with one guest and three new members. Our guest was somebody that many of us know quite well: Pat Huval. Welcome Pat. We hope you come back to visit us frequently.

Two of our new members at the meeting are Danna Sue Spayde and her husband, Matt Brocato. We hope you both enjoy being in BROS as much as your Mom did. Danna Sue has been active in our foster orchid program, along with her husband, through her Mom's participation.

Ryan Neustrom joined us for his first meeting. He had heard about us through Glenn Gawarecki at the orchid show. He got put to work right away helping people take pots to their cars! Thank you, Ryan. Ryan lives in Baton Rouge and is interested in the monthly meeting setup, the foster orchid program and learning more about orchids.

Pete Kennedy joined us online but has not attended a meeting yet. He lives in Baton Rouge and is interested in orchid shows and foster orchid program. He wants to learn more about the care and propagation of orchids.

Welcome all of you!

Our November birthdays are:

Shirley Nesom: 11/8
Gene Berg: 11/10
James Baldrige: 11/14
Juan Carlos Cruz: 11/15
Dayna Zrinski: 11/18
Claudia Ross: 11/22
Diane Saye: 11/28
Karen Cashio: 11/29

Our December birthdays are:

Marie Williams 12/9
Bunnie Hill 12/9
Eddie Dupuy 12/12
Victor (TooToo) Bergeron 12/19
Lata Johnson 12/20
Geoffrey Frost 12/21
Hal Canning 12/28

I wanted to thank all the Carolyn Clay family from BROS for all the orchids, pots, shade cloth, etc that they have generously donated in the name of Carolyn Clay. It gives us all memories of her.

It's nice to know that some non-members (for the time being :-)) read our newsletter and visit our website. Mary Bolin donated several orchid related items to us that were given out at the last meeting— good reason to come to the meetings; you never know what you might get!

Carolyn Englert phoned with orchid problems she was having; hopefully she will come to the meetings to learn more!

This will be the last newsletter sent before our Christmas party on Thursday December 7 at 6:00 p.m. Bring your best smile and Christmas casual wear if you like. Lots of Christmas photo clicking will occur!

If you haven't signed up to bring a dish or donation yet, please phone Jeanette Foster (225-572-6319) and let her know what you are bringing. You are welcome to bring a guest.

Our new president asks that all 2024 board members and committee chairmen attend so a group photo can be taken for the newspaper. Also, please let me know yes or no if you are planning to come and if you are bringing a friend. 225-247-2329. ncm6383@msn.com

Since this is a party and not a meeting, membership will not have a table set up or be taking membership dues that night.

Nancy Morrison
Membership Chairman

Calcasieu Orchid Society Short Course, December 2



Click [**HERE**](#) to register!

The Louisiana Orchid Short Course in Lake Charles will be held on Saturday, December 2, from 8am to 3pm. The cost is \$35.00 and lunch is included. Please use the registration link above or the QR code below for quick and easy registration. (To use the QR code below, use your phone's camera and tap to focus on the code and then click the link that pops up and you can get straight to the registration online and sign up from your phone).



You can also use this [link](#) to see the signup sheet containing information for this event. The event is a full day of orchid talk and visiting with other orchid growers in south Louisiana. If you are interested in orchids as a hobby, this course is highly recommended!

Several members are carpooling Saturday morning. If you would like to join this group, please email Jim to coordinate. Several BROS members are planning on driving to Lake Charles Friday afternoon. For any BROS members who are planning on staying in Lake Charles on Dec. 2, Mary Richardson has extended an invitation to her house for wine and cheese the night before, December 1st (4618 W Autumnwood Lane, Lake Charles, 70605). BROS members can then go as group to Paul's Rib Shack. Lunch for the short course (Included with your \$35.00 registration fee) will be homemade gumbo.

Information about the hotel block at Hampton Inn:

Use this [Booking Link](#) to book a room via the room block for our group. You can also call 1-800-445-8667 and let them know they are booking at Hampton Inn- Lake Charles, give them the dates, and the group code is WOS.

BROS Orchid Education Opportunities-Reminder

Orchids for Everyone!

The Penn State University Master Gardeners working with the American Orchid Society have created a course called "Orchids for Everyone". The cost of each of the 6 seminars is \$10 each but there is no charge if you belong to AOS.

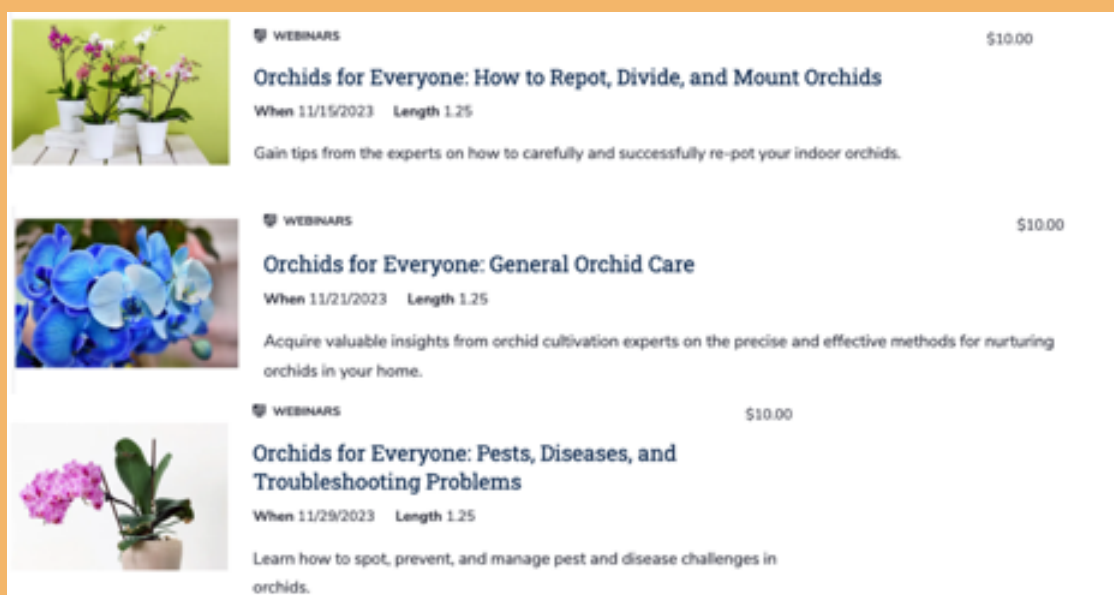
The first class was held on November 1, but if you weren't able to attend, there are several more classes, so you can still create an account and sign up to participate in those classes that are of interest to you.

If you are interested in learning more about orchids and do not belong to AOS, this would be a good way to help cover the cost of joining. Here is the link to the Penn State Extension website where you can sign up for an account and get more details on the courses that are offered:




[Penn State Extension Website](#)

After opening the link, click on "Account" and "Create an Account" on the top right side of the page. Once you create your account and log in, use the large blue search bar at the top of the page to search "Orchids for Everyone", and you will see the 6 titles of the webinars in the series. Clicking on the name of the course will bring up the registration page so that you can sign up for whichever ones you would like to attend. The introduction class has already been completed, but we will be watching clips from that particular webinar at Wednesday's meeting.

If you belong to AOS you should have received a message on how to sign up for free. If you did not receive the message, contact Jim and he will send you directions on signing up. Reservations for the course close 2 hours before the start of each course.



The screenshot displays a list of three webinars under the heading "WEBINARS". Each entry includes a thumbnail image of orchids, the webinar title, the date and time, the duration, and a brief description. The price of \$10.00 is listed to the right of each title.

Thumbnail	Webinar Title	When	Length	Price
	Orchids for Everyone: How to Repot, Divide, and Mount Orchids	When 11/15/2023	Length 1.25	\$10.00
	Orchids for Everyone: General Orchid Care	When 11/21/2023	Length 1.25	\$10.00
	Orchids for Everyone: Pests, Diseases, and Troubleshooting Problems	When 11/29/2023	Length 1.25	\$10.00



LSU CONSERVATORY NOTES

by Frank Zachariah

I'm sitting inside as darkness is setting in at 5:30 (can't we get this law changed!).

The gloom is making me think of the Scrooge story and the 'Three Spirits of Christmas' – the Past, Present, and Future.

Let's take a look at our Conservatory.

The Past – We've been at Burden for about 4 yrs. We started with one bench in the now demolished Lath Structure, then moved to 2, and then 4. We hopped around to what is presently the Poinsettia House and finally settled on an abandoned Tomato Research House, where we are today. Never thought we would fill it, but the plants kept coming.

The Present – We now have a few thousand orchids, hundreds of seedlings, 500+ mounts, and a couple hundred Phals. (We also have a bench of a hundred sale plants for our meetings.) There is a dedicated weekly work crew that is constantly cleaning up and moving us forward. And thanks to Alice Miller, we have an attractive weekly orchid display in the lobby of the Conference Center.

The Future – What does it hold? There will be major changes for us in the next year or so. The present Conservatory Greenhouse is scheduled to be taken down in Burden's Master Plan. We are discussing how to best display our collection to the public and how our orchids can be used to help draw people to the Burden Gardens. We have a unique relationship with LSU (Geaux Tigers!) in a truly ideal location. I look forward to a lasting commitment and hoping the future will look kindly on us for beginning this treasured endeavor.

Conservatory Photos by Glenn Gawarecki

November Orchid Beauties

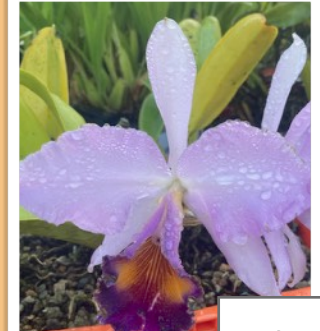
Photo and Identification by Glenn Gawarecki & Hal Canning



Lc. Little Susie
"Shadow Lane"



Stellamizutaara
Kelly 'Lea'



Lc. Dinard
'Blue Heaven'

BROS Offers Orchid Arrangement Donation

The Dunham School reached out to BROS and asked for an arrangement to include in an online auction for their upcoming school fundraising. We felt this was an excellent opportunity to get some publicity for a small amount of money. Several trifold BROS information sheets and a card announcing who the donation was from included QR (Quick Response) codes to access the BROS Website and AOS Info sheet on the Phalaenopsis. Latest bid \$85.00.

We would like to thank Patty Granier for picking up the orchids for the arrangement and Valerie Creehan for creating the arrangement. See pics below.



AOS AWARDS FROM THE LOUISIANA JUDGING CENTER

OCTOBER AWARDS



**Vanda Junior Scott 'Catahoula
Royalty' AM 84 Eron Borne**



**Paph. Doll's Kobold 'Klaus
Hirsch' AM 81 Meta Flanagin**



**Phal. Mainshow
Sapphore 'Dude' AM 81
Mary Mancini**



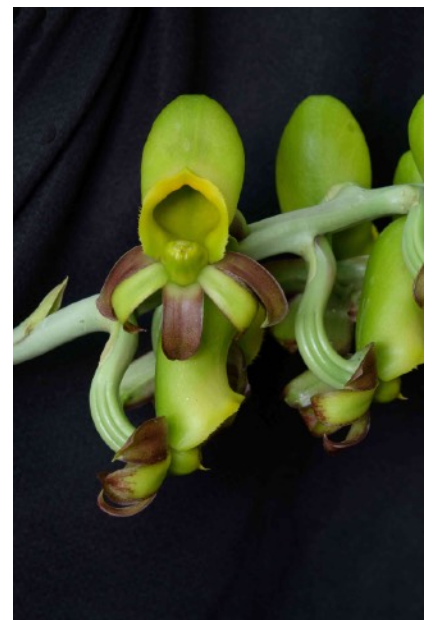
**Paph. Barbilight 'Petra J.
Baur' AM 80 Meta Flanagin**



**Cym. Chen's Ruby 'Petra
F. Flanagin' HCC 77
Meta Flanagin**



**Clo. Joy Prout 'Luxie'
HCC 76 Bill Caldwell**



**Ctsm. saccatum 'Tjaarda'
AM 80 Bill Caldwell**

AOS AWARDS FROM THE LOUISIANA JUDGING CENTER

September CLOS Show Awards



Vanda (provisional) 'Bravo'
HCC 78 Jackie Bravo



Educational Exhibit 'Dude'
EEC 87 Mary Mancini



CLOS AOS show Trophy
STC 80 CLOS



Clowesetum FT 'Michelle Aurand' AM 81 Meta

ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

2023 BROS

President - Frank McMains
Vice Pres.- Glenn Gawarecki
Secretary - Lanna Lytle
Treasurer - Pat Canning
Conservatory Chair -
Frank Zachariah

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Lata Johnson (through 2023)
David Coco (through 2024)
Charles Dartez (through 2025)

SWROGA REPS

Lata Johnson
Kathy Conerly

AOS REP

Jim Morrison

ORCHID DIGEST

Frank Zachariah

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program - Patty Granier and
Lata Johnson

Publicity-Kim Kensill

Membership-Nancy Morrison

Newsletter Editor-

Kathy Lopiparo

Co-Editor - Jim Morrison

Show Chair - David Coco

Hospitality - Jeanette Foster



Baton Rouge Orchid Society
7925 Director Dr Baton Rouge, LA
70817-5336

Email:

info@batonrougeorchidsociety.org

Facebook: [Baton Rouge Orchid Society](https://www.facebook.com/BatonRougeOrchidSociety)

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

