

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Orchid Society

BROS News

www.batonrougeorchidsociety.com


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February Meeting Information

Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, at the Burden Conference Center at 7pm.

This month's program will feature Amber Powell Moreau with Burden Gardens. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday!



President's Message



February, 2024

I am sorry we had to cancel January's BROS meeting, but we were concerned about potential road icing conditions after our meeting. I extend our appreciation for the work Mary Richardson and Geoff Frost did to prepare the program for the meeting. I expect we will see it later in the year.

I would like to share the condolences of the entire BROS family to Mal Corcoran and family for the loss of wife and mother, Maureen. A "Celebration of Life" for Maureen was held on Saturday, February 17.

The first out of town show, Gulf Coast Orchid Society, is now in the books. Congratulations to the award winners and many thanks to the members that prepared, set up the display (Kathy and David) and brought back (Hal and Pat) the plants from Gauthier Mississippi. Helping with out-of-town shows is an effective way to learn more about how orchids are displayed, judged, and awarded. It does take some practice and time to become efficient. We are always looking for volunteers to assist.

Orchid shows in Lake Charles and Houma are coming up as well as some opportunities to talk about orchids with the public at the LSU Spring Garden Show, Burden Spring Plant Fest, and Hilltop's Spring Fling. We hope many of you will volunteer to participate.

Patty Granier, Kathy Conerly, and Lata Johnson have revived the "Orchids for Seniors" program and have renamed it "Redstick Orchid Growers." Meetings are in the Main Library on the Fourth Thursday of the month at 10 a.m., so folks who cannot attend at night can still get their orchid fix.

The "Foster Orchid" program is restarting with members signing up to "Foster Orchids." Our goal is to have every member foster at least one orchid and hopefully many to donate to this worthwhile cause. Thanks to Jeanette Foster for Chairing the program.

Due to the doubling of the rent on the conference center beginning April 1, 2024, the board has voted to increase dues paid after April 1, 2024, to \$25.00 for single membership and \$35.00 for family membership. If this increase creates a personal financial issue for you, please speak with me and we will work something out. We apologize for the dues increase but the society cost has gone up.

Plans are underway for our BROS Show in July as well as a few other projects. We hope all members will participate in making sure 2024 is a wonderful year for the Baton Rouge Orchid Society.

Happy Orchid Growing and as always, please reach out to me if you have questions.

- Jim

February Membership News

I am in hopes that Mother Nature behaves herself and allows us to have our meeting this month of February. It seems like it has been AGES since I have seen everybody! We do have one new member that joined via the website:

Tara Brown resides in Baton Rouge. Her favorite genus is the phalaenopsis. She has already joined the Redstick Orchid Group.

We have a few February birthdays for anybody wanting to wish them a happy birthday:

Helen Mason, 2/1; Randall Lejeune, 2/4; Mary Legoria, 2/7; Ryan Newstrom, 2/11; Carolyn Collins, 2/12; Lanna Lytle, 2/12; David Coco, 2/20; Pam Aucoin, 2/23; Jenny Herman, 2/25; Kathy Conerly 2/28

Happy Birthday to all!

Hope to see all at the meeting - Geoff has a good program planned for us!

- Nancy Morrison, Membership Chairman



Red Stick Orchid Growers

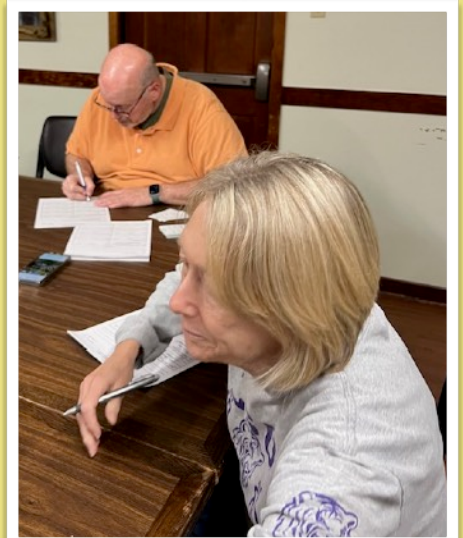
It's finally starting up! Red Stick Orchid Growers is the new name for the Orchids for Seniors group. We will meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00am at the Goodwood Library. The meeting is in room A on the second floor each month. The program for the February 22nd meeting is "Show Us Your Phals" (Phalaenopsis). Bring your orchid to the meeting to brag or for advice. We will have a repotting demonstration for a Phal we will bring.

- Patty Granier

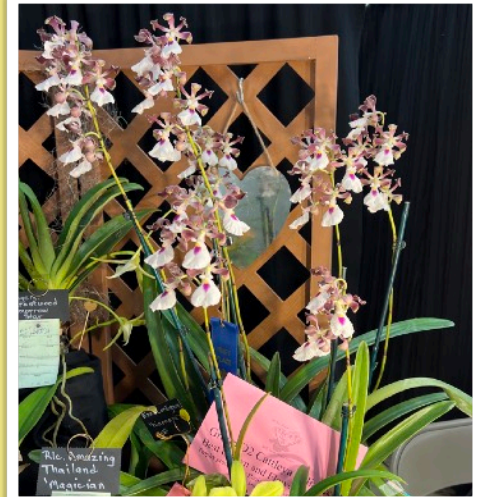
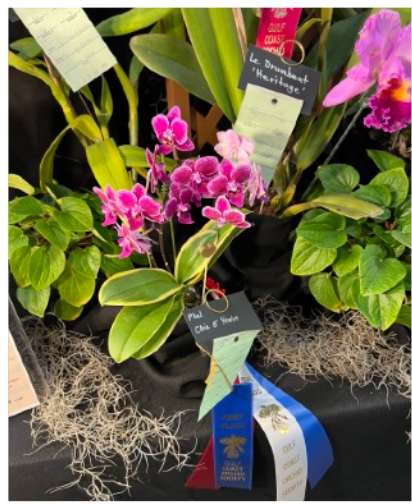
BROS PREP FOR GULF COAST ORCHID SHOW

Here is our crew of “elves” preparing evening before the Gautier orchid show. They identify, classify, mark & do mock set up, then load the vehicle for elves (Kathy Conerly & David Coco) doing the setup in Gautier the next day. Other “elves” that helped were Connie Miller, Frank Zachariah, Melanie Cuellar, Patty Granier, Jim Morrison. Pat & Hal Canning were the elves who brought all the orchids & supplies back & got the orchids back to the growers.

Volunteering for out of town shows is an excellent way to learn more about orchids. Please consider volunteering!



GULF COAST ORCHID SHOW PHOTOS



GULF COAST ORCHID SHOW AWARDS



BROS AWARDS AT GULF COAST

Owner Name	Plant Name	Type
Kathy Conerly	Phal. Chia E. Yenlin	Blue and Tricolor
David Coco	Rlc. Amazing Thailand "Magician"	Blue
Gene Berg	Lc. Sylvan Sprite "Blythe Spirit"	Blue
Gene Berg	Bct. Merry 'Jessica'	Yellow
Geoffrey Frost	Blc. Everything Nice 'Exquisite'	Red
Conservatory	Bct. Booth Lee	Red
Conservatory	Reed Stem Epi	Yellow
Jim Morrison	Rth. Wanda's Fire	Yellow
Eddie Dupuy	Enc. Cordigera 'hinmaru' x self. Species	Blue, TriColor, 2 trophies and AOS Consideration
BROS	Bros Exhibit	Blue for display

Congratulations, BROS!

UPCOMING ORCHID SHOWS

Spring is the season for orchid shows all through the Gulf Coast area. Orchid societies schedule local shows and invite other societies to participate. When we participate, we gather members' blooming plants on the Thursday before the show to prepare them for display. Members take turns setting up and taking down displays. Shows provide opportunities to network with growers and vendors and learn tips on being successful. It's lots of fun, and we need you!

Mobile Orchid Society	Belingrath Gardens, AL	Feb 24-25
Calcasieu Orchid Society	Lake Charles, LA	April 5-7
Terrebone Orchid Society	Houma, LA	April 13-14
New Orleans Orchid Show	Metairie, LA	June 1-2
BROS SHOW - JULY 11-14 (SHOW IS 13TH & 14TH) - WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO MAKE OUR SHOW THE BEST IT CAN BE!		

Upcoming Garden Shows - Looking for Volunteers!

Spring means many garden shows and orchid shows in and around the area. BROS NEEDS YOUR HELP with meet and greet as well as orchid show set up and take down. Please read through orchid and garden shows and let us know where you would like to volunteer! We will be discussing member volunteer sign up Wednesday night.



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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.

Upcoming Garden Shows - Looking for Volunteers!

Burden Museum & Gardens 2024 Spring Garden Fest and EBR Master Gardener Plant Sale



LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens

March 23, 2024

Join us for the biggest plant sale of the year! Shop from thousands of locally-grown perennials and annuals specifically selected by the East Baton Rouge Master Gardeners for success in your garden.

The Spring Garden Fest raises money to support the educational activities provided by Master Gardeners and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens.

LSU Hilltop Arboretum Annual Spring Fling Plant Sale

Public Sale: Saturday, April 20, 9am-4pm & Sunday, April 21, 12-4pm

Members-Only Sale: April 17, 9am-6pm

Admission: Free



Spring Fling celebrates three decades of masterfully bringing people and plants together at LSU's Hilltop Arboretum. This year's sale celebrates Hilltop's commitment to *Go Native!* with an expanded selection of native plants for the residential landscape and over 300 species of native and traditional trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, ferns, camellias, and grasses sourced from trusted nurseries in Texas and Louisiana. Experts will be on hand to help with selections. While you're here, visit the Children's Nature Activity Tent, Vendor's Village, Hilltop Gift Shop, and Garden Sale! Become a member for an invitation to shop the members-only sale and receive savings on plants and gift shop purchases.

Visit www.lsu.edu/hilltop for more information and to become a member!

LSU Hilltop Arboretum • 11855 Highland Road • Baton Rouge, LA 70810

225.767.6916 • hilltop@lsu.edu

GROWING SPACES SPOTLIGHT: MAL CORCORAN

Mal Corcoran is a very involved member of BROS with a wealth of growing experience and an awesome collection of orchids to back it up. We thank Mal for his continual contributions to BROS, and we are excited to bring you into his "Growing Space" to kick off our first Member Spotlight!

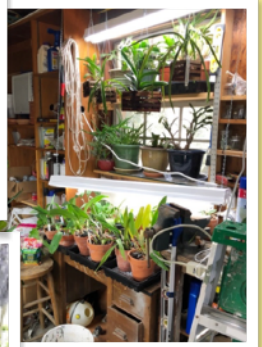
Here is a look into Mal's *Growing Space* in his own words:

After reading and trying various places to grow orchids, I started growing orchids outside on my patio under a soffit along my east facing wall. Poor choice as not enough sun. Gene Berg smiled when I told him where I was growing orchids, he said I needed more light. The next year, I moved the orchids to the yard and used a sunshade attached to my soffit and two metal poles. They did much better.

I wintered the orchids inside my shop under florescent lights. It shows how hardy orchids are as most of them survived my poor attempts at trying to make them survive winters.



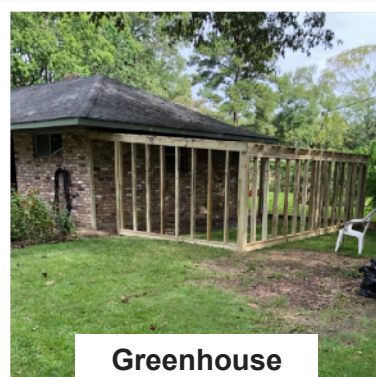
Wintering
inside shop



Outside Under
Soffit



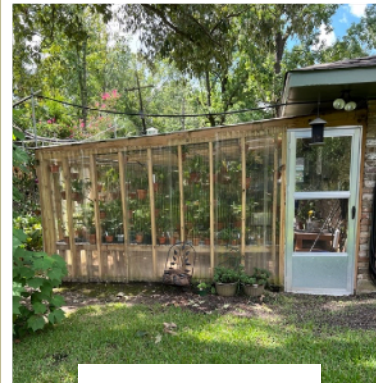
Greenhouse
Start



Greenhouse
Construction



Rear View



Side View

During Covid, my appraisal business was almost nonexistent, so I thought, "What a great time to build a greenhouse!" In July 2020, I called a contractor who had remodeled our bathroom and told him I wanted a greenhouse attached to the rear of my shop. He said he never built one but would give it a go.

The greenhouse frame was built in three days. I put up the plastic walls and ceiling, constructed the benches, installed electric outlets, and installed a wall mounted exhaust fan. I had a friend help me haul and spread the pea gravel floor. I hired a plumber to install water faucets both inside and outside the greenhouse. I already had a wall mounted heating/cooling unit that heated my shop, so I turned it around to heat the greenhouse. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)



GROWING SPACES SPOTLIGHT: MAL CORCORAN



Continued from page 10:

By the time all was said and done, the greenhouse costs were \$10,000±. Probably \$6,000 was for the greenhouse walls, ceiling, and two storm doors. \$4,000± was for plumbing, benches, gravel, electric, fans, watering system, etc. Greenhouse size is 14' x 20'.

Seems expensive, but every time when I go inside the greenhouse I smile. How much is that worth?

The upside about connecting the greenhouse to the exterior of my shop is that the brick wall helps maintain humidity, helps cool the greenhouse in summer, and saved me the expense of a fourth wall.

I try and grow as many orchids as possible outside to the rear of the greenhouse under a large oak tree. There are benches and a watering system. I don't use shade cloth as the oak tree provides filtered light. They do much better outside with the rain, than inside.

If you are thinking of a greenhouse, start small and buy one that can be easily put together. If you have any questions, talk to me at the meetings. I would be more than happy to show you my orchids.

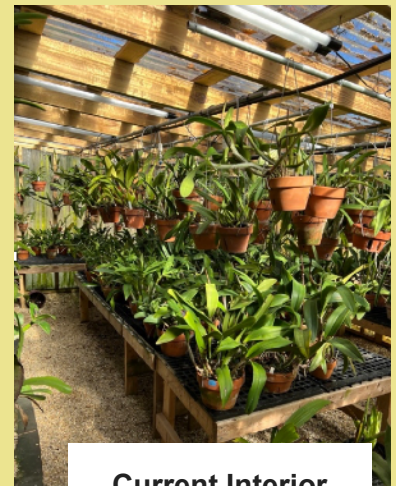
**THANKS FOR SHARING THIS GREAT INFORMATION AND YOUR PHOTOS AND
INSIGHTS WITH ALL OF US, MAL - WHAT AN AMAZING GROWING SPACE!!**



Beginning Interior



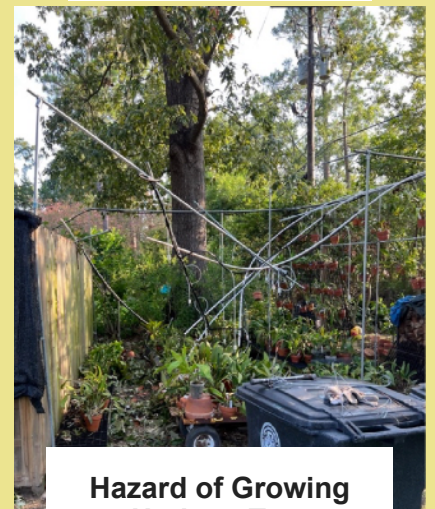
Current Interior



Current Interior



Outdoor Growing Area



**Hazard of Growing
Under a Tree**

to B-R-O-S!!

A 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 info@batonrougeorchidsociety.com, 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!

WE NEED SUBMISSIONS TO ENSURE THIS PORTION OF OUR NEWSLETTER IS A HELPFUL PLACE FOR OUR MEMBERS, SO START SENDING US QUESTIONS AND PHOTOS OF YOUR ORCHID ISSUES!

BE OUR NEXT “GROWING SPACES” SPOTLIGHT CONTRIBUTOR!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR GROWING SPACE!

Send photos and info to kathylopiaro@gmail.com so we can highlight your growing spaces and your orchids in one of our upcoming 2024 newsletters!

Please include 5-6 photos of your orchids in their growing space, features of the space you would like to highlight and any growing tips you would like to share.

- If growing in an outdoor structure, when/how did you build it? 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 similar structure?
- Any new/upcoming plans for this space?
- What are some tips you may want to share that are working for your needs?



Pot. Tokyo Bay 'Victory'



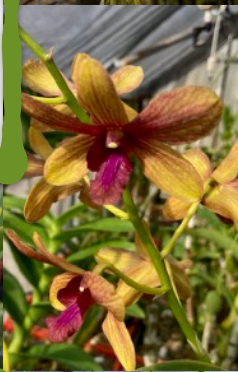
Mcp. galeottiana x C. violacea



Aslla. africans 'Waunakee'



Rlc. Mahina Yahiro 'Julie'



Orchid Photos by Glenn Gawarecki



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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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

