

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Orchid Society

# BROS News

[www.batonrougeorchidsociety.com](http://www.batonrougeorchidsociety.com)


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## September Meeting Information

Our monthly meeting will be held this Wednesday, September 20, at the Burden Conference Center at 7pm.

Our September program is "Grow to Show". Frank Zachariah will talk about what properties judges look for when judging orchids in a show. Bring you orchids in bloom for his evaluation and tips for growing show quality orchids



# President's Message



## President's Note September 2023

Hello BROS!

The unusual dry heat has continued in south Louisiana since our last meeting. The temperatures may be dangerous to work in, but my orchids love it!

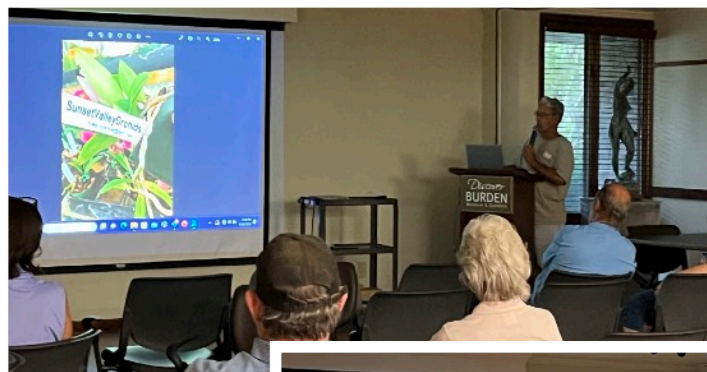
We have some housekeeping issues coming up, we need to nominate and vote on a new slate of officers for the BROS. Many people have been generous enough to commit to staying in their current roles for another year. However, we still need folks to organize our show, organize out of town shows, and we need a new President! If you have the spare time and you have some basic organizational skills, please talk to Hal Canning. Hal has graciously agreed to head the Nominating Committee this year. The BROS runs on volunteer effort, please participate if you can.

Lastly, we need people to set up or take down the BROS exhibit at an upcoming orchid show on September, 22-23rd in Pineville, a quick two-hour drive from Baton Rouge. Please email me at [frankmcmains@gmail.com](mailto:frankmcmains@gmail.com).

Happy Growing,

- Frank

## August Meeting Photos





# UPCOMING ORCHID SHOW & MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Central Louisiana Orchid Society

## Orchid Show and Sale



Friday, September 22, 2023, 2:00-5:00pm  
Saturday, September 23, 2023, 8:00-4:00pm



Kees Park Community Center  
2450 Highway 28 E, Pineville, LA

**Free Admission**

- ❖ Amazing displays and galleries of orchids
- ❖ Orchid growers will be present to give tips on growing and repotting
- ❖ Beautiful orchids available for purchase
- ❖ Bring your kids! Orchid treasure hunt and ribbons awarded.

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[www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org](http://www.centrallouisianaorchidsociety.org)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

I want to thank Shirley Nesom and Hal Canning for taking care of membership duties last month. They did a great job! We had a total of 36 attendees . We had 2 visitors: Larry Tuttle and Linda Stegall. Hope these visitors will return.

Phyllis Nola is now a member. She lives in Baton Rouge and wants to learn how to not kill her orchids. She is interested in social media updates, photography at meetings and conservatory assistance. Welcome Phyllis!

We have some September birthdays to recognize:

Jennifer Farlough: 9/1

Mary Cash: 9/16

Mal Corcoran : 9/24

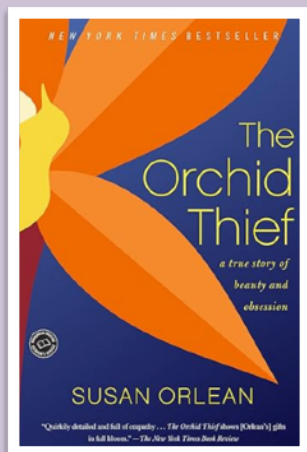
Mary Rice: 9/

Hope to see everybody at the meeting.

**Nancy Morrison**  
**Membership Chairman**

# UPCOMING EVENT - SAVE THE DATE!

Professor Charles Richard, UL faculty member and friend of Frank McMains, has organized a speaking engagement at UL on October 4, with Susan Orlean, author of *The Orchid Thief*. What a great opportunity to hear this talented author speak!



 **FLORA LEVY**  
HUMANITIES SERIES

PRESENTS

# SUSAN ORLEAN

BESTSELLING AUTHOR • JOURNALIST • ESSAYIST

**LECTURE**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2023**  
**7:00 – 9:00 PM**  
**ANGELLE HALL AUDITORIUM**



  
**THE ORCHID THIEF**  
A TRUE STORY OF BEAUTY AND OBSESSION  
SUSAN ORLEAN

  
**THE LIBRARY BOOK**  
SUSAN ORLEAN  
author of THE ORCHID THIEF

  
**Susan Orlean**  
**On Animals**

"There appears to be nothing in the world that doesn't interest Orlean, and she has such a companionable way of conveying her fascinations that readers can't help being fascinated too."  
—The New York Times





# Saying Goodbye to Two of Our Dear BROS Friends

## *Carolyn Clay*

September 29, 1939 — August 14, 2023



Carolyn Clay passed away on August 14, 2023 at the age of 83. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Carolyn was a graduate of Istrouma High School and attended LSU. During her career she was active in the National Association of Women in Construction. For over 30 years she was a member of the Baton Rouge Orchid Society.

She is survived by her sons, Barry Lee Moore, II (and wife Madalyn) and John Alexander Durnin, III (and wife Catherine); her grandchildren, Matthew Moore, William Moore (and wife Madison), Joshua, Emma, and Camille Durnin, and Jenny Davis; great-grandchildren, Skylar and Adelyn Davis; her sister, Janet Mason; and numerous nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her daughters, Johnna LeJeune and Laura Durnin; two sisters, Barbara Hawkins and Frances Shepard; her brothers, Tom Clay and Frank Pegues; and her parents, Thomas Clay, Jr. and Beulah White.

# Saying Goodbye to Two of Our Dear BROS Friends

## *Danna Spayde*

February 28, 1933 — August 25, 2023



A couple of years ago while Mom and I were candidly talking about when we die, what we wanted to happen, etc. she said “When you write my obituary, make it funny!” I said “Gee thanks Mom, no pressure there, nothing easier than writing a funny obituary! Why it practically writes itself!” Though I don’t think I will live up to her expectations on this matter, here goes:

She was born in Gulfport, MS. Her dad owned Stone’s Ice Cream Company, an ice cream plant that had an ice cream parlor in the front as well, and was located between Gulfport High School and the beach! Talk about a great location! Well, obviously right from the beginning, life was going to be sweet and a whole lot of fun for her and her 2 sisters, and from what I heard, (because I didn’t know her then) I’m pretty sure it was. She met my Dad, so the story goes, while on an excursion ferry to Ship Island. He was the most handsome and probably silliest, deck hand on the ferryboat that she rode on that day (isn’t that romantic?). They fell in love, got married, had 2 kids and moved to Baton Rouge, where she got her Master’s in Social Work at LSU and she has been a Master of being Social ever since! She loved all living things, even the “icky” ones, because she believed that like it or not, every life has a reason.

Intellectually brilliant, she had not a bit of common sense and was also so clumsy she could trip over her own shadow! After all, no one’s perfect! She probably had more important things going on in her brain than to pay attention to mundane things in life like practicality, poise and balance. A pure, spiritual being, she was open to all religions because she would, (and I’m quoting Bob Hope here) “Hate to blow the Hereafter on a technicality”. I could go on and on about all she did, but the truth is, I haven’t a clue about everything she did, and I bet no one else does either. She was so diverse in her passions and did so much to keep them alive and going, that I just couldn’t keep up. I like to think of her like a finely cut faceted diamond. Get her into a little light, stand back and watch the beautiful colors of life and love emit out of her in every direction. All those who knew her, loved her. All of you who never met her, I am sorry for your lost opportunity.

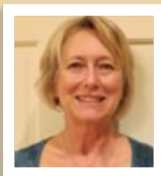
She is preceded in death not only by her husband, R.L. Spayde Sr., parents Daniel M. and Ruth L. Stone and other relatives, but also by everyone and everything that has ever died before her. She leaves behind her 2 sisters, 2 children, a son-in-law, 4 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, a plethora of pets and well, obviously everyone and everything else that is still living.

To all who read this, if you at least smiled, please, pay it forward. Life is too short, even if you live to be 90, to not share a smile as often as you can.

# FOND MEMORIES FROM KATHY & A NOTE FROM PAT

I met Carolyn and Danna at my first BROS meeting, held at the Independence Park Garden Center. I sat in one of their chairs and didn't know they always sat together. But instead of giving me the cold shoulder, they invited me to join them. Both became friends and mentors.

Carolyn and I put together displays for many out of town shows. She loved all orchids, but was especially fond of the smaller sized red cattleyas. She'd make me laugh when haggling with the vendors for a lower sales price. In the end, she'd pay full price, but she loved the sparring. If they relented, and gave her a few dollars off, she'd be so tickled and would laugh and tell the story all the way back home.



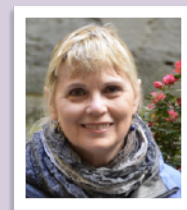
Kathy Conerly

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## Danna Spayde

As all of you know, Danna Spayde passed away several weeks ago. Danna was an integral part of BROS by serving in just about every position and by bringing the love of orchids to the seniors in our city through BREC's Orchid for Seniors program. Several members expressed the desire to remember Danna by contributing to a group fund to help alleviate outstanding medical bills. If you so choose, bring your donation to the September meeting (9/20/23) and we will send one big check to Danna Sue, her daughter. There will be a card for you to sign. If you can't attend the meeting, call Pat Canning at 225 573-3213 to make arrangements to get the money to her.

Pat Canning





# Conservatory Notes and Photos

## Notes on the Conservatory

by Frank Zachariah

How did your orchids survive the inferno? How did you survive?

This summer there were 32 days that the temperature exceeded 100°F – obviously a pitiful record. The only thing that struggled worse than my plants was my A/C. And, Yes, there were casualties in the orchid family. Some of the high mountain oncidiums, like the miltoniopsis, are no longer with us. And some of the new mounts we attempted in July just never had a chance to put out a root system. (R.I.P.)

Many orchids seemed to drastically slow or even shut down growth, waiting for a more temperate climate. But I was shocked how pleasant it seemed last week to be outside in 90°F weather and it made me appreciate the more normal high.

This was a test of the extreme. Certainly one we would have never purposely devised. But it taught us a lot. Very few orchids succumbed. Out of a few thousand in the Conservatory, I doubt we lost twenty. Some of them seemed to enjoy the triple digits, including our dendrobiums, myrmecophila hybrids, and many cattleyas. Even the phalaenopsis (with its known temperamental characteristic) this summer threw out a second flower spike. What an interesting experiment!

This month-long internment in hades made me more assured than before. If you want to grow a near indestructible plant that can take all the tribulations of our Gulf South, orchids are the way to go!

[I've included some pics of some of our Conservatory elves that are keeping us moving forward.]







## Conservatory Photos by Glenn Gawarecki



## September Conservatory Beauties



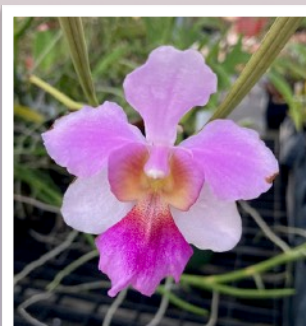
**Bc. Denise Ann**



**Psh. cochleata**



**E. Orchid Jungle**



**Papilionanthe Miss  
Joaquim**

Photos by Glenn Gawarecki

# AOS AWARDS FROM THE LOUISIANA JUDGING CENTER

## AUGUST AWARDS



**Vandachostylis Ladda Gold**  
Louisiana HCC 79 Al Taylor



**Pectabenaria Kat Hawk Louisiana**  
HCC 79 Al Taylor



**Vanda Hifen Chan Louisiana**  
HCC 77 Al Taylor



# ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

## 2023 BROS

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

**Newsletter Editor**  
Kathy Lopiparo  
**Co-Editor** - Jim Morrison

## 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  
**Show Chair**- David Coco  
**Hospitality**-Jeanette Foster



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Facebook: [Baton Rouge Orchid Society](#)

Web: <https://bros.wildapricot.org>

Instagram:

[baton\\_rouge\\_orchid\\_society](#)



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](mailto:fosterjeanette51@gmail.com)

