



# Southern Tier Orchid Society

WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Snow Season to STOS Members!

I hope everyone is enjoying the snow as much as I am. Skiing, snowshoeing or just walking outside makes the winter so much more beautiful. After all, we can't just look at our blooming orchids all day! Or can we?

I find myself looking forward to our Zoom meetings every month. They are not quite the same as talking in person but it seems to be getting closer. I encourage everyone to say a few words about anything in your life, not just orchid-related. You could also type in a chat and even direct it to just one person if you like.

Last month we had an excellent talk by Arthur Katz on Rare and Unusual Orchids. He not only showed pictures of beautiful and sometimes bizarre orchids, but also explained why each one was rare or unusual.

If you could not attend, we do have a YouTube video of his talk that will be available until Feb 20. All members received the link, but if you need it again, just send an email to the club or me.

"See" you at the Zoom meeting, Feb. 21.

--Carol Bayles

## Speaker at February 21 Meeting

**Fred Clark** presents "Cycnoches, Mormodes, and Catasetums, Recent Trends"

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced "the blackest flower ever witnessed". This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC's and thirty AM's from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.



Fredclarkeara (Fdk.) After Dark 'Black Diamond' /FCC

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Carol Bayles

### Vice President

Gail Gunsalus

### Treasurer

Jane Trey

### Secretary

Ben Cabot

### AOS Representative

Bernice Magee

### Members-At-Large

Luis Matienzo

Sharon Voorhees

Jean Mint

### Newsletter Editor

Carol Bayles

*Contributions, including pictures to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed! Contributions must be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to the editor at [cjb4@cornell.edu](mailto:cjb4@cornell.edu)*

### Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTierOrchidSocietyNY>

### Email address:

[STOSorchids@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids@gmail.com)

## Discounts on STOS Orchid Order

**Fred Clarke**, our speaker on Feb 21, owns Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, CA and is offering STOS a special Zoom discount of 20% on top of the normal volume discount, so with a group order you can expect a 25% discount and minimal shipping charges. Check out their website and start planning your order. This is a very good deal that you cannot pass up!

<https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/ordering.html>

If you have questions about particular orchids, you can ask Fred at his presentation.

Here is the tentative plan:

We hope to put the order in on Monday or early Tuesday, Feb 22-23 so you should be ready. You can email your order to [STOSorchids@gmail.com](mailto:STOSorchids@gmail.com) whenever you have decided, earlier is better. We will then put in a group order. The orchids will be shipped FedEx 2<sup>nd</sup> Day air with the hope of getting the plants by Friday of that week. They will be shipped to Jane's house again (similar to the auction) and everyone can pick up their plants that weekend, Feb 27-28. Fred thinks this is a good plan. If coming to Jane's house is a problem, let us know and we will make other accommodations, if possible.

## Calendar

All meetings will be via Zoom until the threat of Covid-19 has passed. The link will be emailed to members within 1-2 weeks of the meeting.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>February 21, 2021</b> | General Meeting, Speaker Fred Clarke  |
| <b>March 21, 2021</b>    | General Meeting, Speaker Carol Klonowski, 'The History of Unifoliate Cattleyas' |
| <b>April 18, 2021</b>    | General Meeting - Auction finale  |
| <b>May 16, 2021</b>      | General Meeting - Potting Clinic (tentative)                                    |



# Meeting Minutes

## Minutes from Executive Board Meeting on Jan 16, 2021

Zoom meeting called to order by President Carol Bayles.

ATTENDEES; Carol Bayles, Jane Trey, Bernice Magee, Sharon Voorhees, Luis Matienzo, Gail Gunsalus, Jean Mint, Pete O'Connell, Ben Cabot

- Jane Trey expressed appreciation for Peter O'Connell's assistance in developing the club budget.
- Line by line review of budget items.
  - Church rent continues for 2021 where the club library is stored. The yearly fee has been the same, \$450 per year, for the last 10 years. No objection.
  - Club insurance, (\$172) is paid again covering general club activity protection.
  - Roberson 2020 show \$575 rental was not used and it is anticipated that the unused fees previously paid will cover the 2021 show fee if a show is held.
  - Discussed rearranging the membership roster particularly for family members listed twice / separately. Confirmed that family memberships and individual memberships are the same price. At gifting times only 1 free plant per family. Luis and Paula Matienzo are each recipients of lifetime memberships.
  - Confirming that for anyone who paid 2020 dues, 2021 dues are not being collected because of the lack of in-person meeting opportunity for the 2020 year. We will start collecting the 2022 dues in the fall of 2021. Potential for collecting dues via PayPal by a link on our website adding whatever the PayPal charges are.
  - Fall auction is still a line item budgeted.
  - Possible potting workshop at an outdoor venue. Will look into.
  - Discussed the possibility of getting an external hard drive for backing up all important club technology, and the location of photos from the previous web hosting folders.
  - AOS donation budget is \$400 but may be re-evaluated lower near the end of the year. This year was in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of AOS.
  - Heard a review of previous year expenditures and a downward financial trend.
  - Jane reported that progress is made with the IRS for annual reporting previously never done.
  - The board unanimously approved the budget.
  - Speaker schedule is filling, but March is not covered yet. Potential discussed for utilizing an AOS webinar instead of a high price guest speaker.
  - Jane pointed out that for everyone that joins the AOS as a member extends our club membership by one month.
  - Discussion of advance orders and a link for orchid purchases from our February speaker.

Submitted by  
Ben Cabot, Secretary.

# Meeting Minutes

## Minutes from the Membership Meeting on Jan 17, 2021

Zoom meeting called to order by President Carol Bayles.

ATTENDEES; Carol Bayles, Jane Trey, Bernice Magee, Sharon Voorhees, Luis and Paula Matienzo, Gail Gunsalus, Jean Mint, Pete O'Connell, Ben Cabot, John Zygmunt, Nancy Wolf, Anne Quain, Joe Sniezek, Colin Dimon, Bill O'Connell, Arthur Katz (guest speaker)

- Call for approval of minutes of December meeting as printed in the newsletter. Accepted without objection.
- Treasurer report – Jane Trey. Balance is \$9,295. Anonymous donations came in for \$100, and one for \$50. Appreciation expressed. Expenses were annual church rent, annual insurance policy, and December speaker fee.
- American Orchid Society {AOS} report Bernice Magee.
  - Most AOS members have not yet received their magazine. Peter O'Connell has received his in Florida. January copies of the magazine have already been requested but March is still open for requests. Contact Bernice at [magee.bernice@gmail.com](mailto:magee.bernice@gmail.com)
  - Special current AOS membership offering. For every new national AOS member, the STOS will receive an additional month added to their dues payment.
  - Benefits of membership include accessing any topic on the AOS website archives for helpful hints. Print or digital subscriptions are available.
- Executive board meeting report (see page 3)
- Old business - none
- New business –
  - Speaker Fred Clarke for February, Offering an opportunity for online orchid order from his business Sunset Valley with a 25% discount. Link was in December newsletter.
  - Working on getting a speaker for March.
  - Auction online in April. Start thinking about suggestions.
  - Potting workshop in May outdoor park being investigated for safety.
- Show table –
  - Jane Trey – Hawaiian illusion.
  - John Zygmunt – Rhyncholaeliocattleya–Golf Green 'Hair Pig' It's about 2 feet tall. Also showed Bulbophyllum frostii 'Dutch Shoe' orchid and has several to donate to the auction. For trailing orchids, John uses 'trainer' bonsai 6" plastic pots with a separate bottom from Bonsai Outlet on Amazon for about \$4 each. John uses LED full spectrum lights for 12 hours a day 6 am to 6 pm
  - Pete O'Connell – Laeliocatanthe 'Cherokee Star' mounted on cedar board, purchased from next month's speaker Fred Clarke. Showed a brilliant colorful Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow series orchid.
- Arthur Katz guest speaker – Rare and unusual orchids.

Submitted by  
Ben Cabot, Secretary.

## ORCHIDS MAGAZINE

**WHERE IT ALL STARTED** The AOS turns 100 on April 21st and our February magazine is dedicated to this historic event. The February edition will feature the Society's history and the many changes in the orchid world over those hundred years. Watch your mailbox for this commemorative issue. If anyone would like to borrow the STOS February issue, Bernice can send it to you. Send your mailing address to her at [magee.bernice@gmail.com](mailto:magee.bernice@gmail.com).

## **AOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Enjoy monthly issues of Orchids magazine, our extensive digital archive of issues, FULL access to OrchidPro, the STUNNING annual supplement, Live and 100+ pre-recorded webinars, exclusive savings and more...

## **AFFILIATED SOCIETY BONUS - EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY**

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership! Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation in the comments section online at checkout or on the [printed membership form](#).

<https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/AOSJoinForm2020.pdf>

*Individual society membership and AOS Membership are not the same. Although affiliated, each requires separate membership dues.*



## World's Ugliest Orchid

The plant, *Gastrodia agnicellus*, was discovered earlier this year in the deep shade underneath leaves on the forest floor in Madagascar. This small, brown orchid spends most of its life underground and has no leaves, only surfacing to produce fruit and disperse its seeds. It actually had quite a fresh, citrusy smell.

*Curtis's Botanical Magazine*,  
[DOI: 10.1111/curt.12354](https://doi.org/10.1111/curt.12354)

## A VIRTUAL DISPLAY OF FLOWERING PLANTS AT OUR HOME

L.J. MATIENZO

(February 2021)

I am hoping that with the limitation of exposures to the outdoors you have a chance to observe and obtain images of your flowerings for all of us to enjoy them at least digitally. I include below some of our recent flowering plants.

### SPECIES:

#### ***Phragmipedium besseae* 'Matienzo':**

This is a species that was discovered in Peru in 1982 and later on in Ecuador. Its vibrant coloration has yielded hybrids with shades of orange and red. A yellow form also known as *Phragmipedium besseae flavum* exists and it yields hybrids with yellow and orange shades. Before this species was discovered *Phragmipedium* colorations were limited to shades of green, tan and a few pink hybrids. The original discovery site of this species is shown on our webpage and unfortunately plants have been over collected and very few exist on this spot. My plant is a selected outcross of two awarded species. Each spike yields two to three flat flowers.



#### ***Masdevallia towarensis*:**

This species is endemic to a particular region of Venezuela and it can be grown under intermediate conditions. Each flowering spike carries two flowers. Along with *Masdevallia mejiana*, these two *Masdevallias* are the only ones with white flowers. *Masdevallia mejiana* has a similar flower but the tips of the sepals are yellow. A hybrid of these two species exists and it is known as *Masdevallia Snow Bird*.

# Luis' Orchids

## HYBRIDS:

### ***Paphiopedilum* Winston Churchill 'Redoutable' FCC/AOS:**

This complex *Paphiopedilum* is famous and it has been used many times to produce a modern line of complex plants. At least two clones of this hybrid have received FCC/AOS awards. Many other clones are known and have been awarded in the United States and in England and they are too many to list. The original hybrid was registered by S. Low in 1951 and it was the cross using *Paphiopedilum* Eridge (seed parent) and *Paphiopedilum* Hampden (pollen parent).



### ***Paphiopedilum* Virens 'Matienzo':**

This is considered an old guard lady slipper hybrid which was registered by Veitch in 1877 using *Paphiopedilum* *insigne* x *Paphiopedilum* *villosum* to produce one of the first lady slipper hybrids. The hybrid name still in latin (*Virens*) means **in reference to plants or of greenish coloration**. A search at the RHS orchid register produces a few other names for the same hybrid given by other hybridizers a few years later but the priority name is the one given here.

### ***Paphiopedilum* Elsa de Matienzo:**

This is new hybrid which I registered with RHS and carries my mother's name. This hybrid produces a new line of compact plants and it uses a newly discovered Vietnamese *Paphiopedilum*, i.e., *Paphiopedilum* *tranlienianum*. When combined with another compact plant such as *Paphiopedilum* In Charm Topaz it yields the named hybrid. Since I have grown several multi-growth plants of this cross I would like to offer them for sale to anyone interested.



## The Secrets Of Orchid Genetics

Research decodes genetics behind flower's wide-ranging beauty.

<https://www.insidescience.org/news/secrets-orchid-genetics>

Charles Q. Choi, Contributor

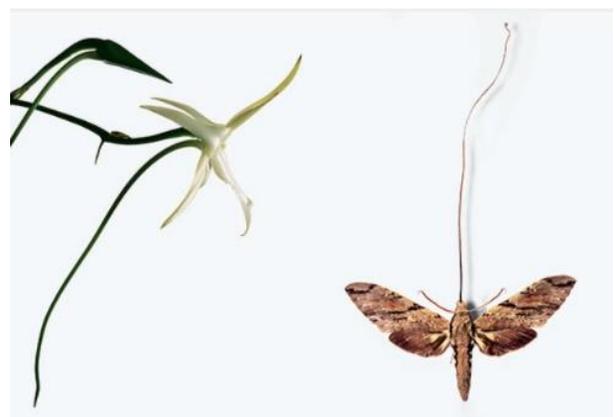
(Inside Science) -- Orchids come in extraordinary diversity. With more than twice the myriad species of birds, orchids make up what may be the largest family in the plant kingdom. Now, scientists are unlocking the genetic mechanisms that make orchids unique among flowering plants.

The more than 26,000 recognized species making up the orchid family are full of oddities. For example, *Dracula* orchids, several of which possess blood-red blossoms, are pollinated by flies that are lured in by flowers that look and smell like the mushrooms on which the insects normally lay eggs. *Ophrys* orchids, on the other hand, look like female bees, transferring pollen when males of the insect species attempt to have sex with them. Orchids are often such masters of mimicking what pollinators might want that roughly a third of all orchid species do not even put out rewards such as nectar to attract insects, said orchidologist Barbara Gravendeel at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden in the Netherlands.

Orchid complexity inspired Darwin's follow-up project to his groundbreaking tome on evolution, "On the Origin of Species." As Darwin's health suffered, he increasingly examined plants from the comfort of his own home. He collected evidence that orchid complexity could be explained by the flowers evolving together with their pollinators, supporting his theory of evolution and countering arguments that orchid complexity required a divine creator. For instance, the orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale* of Madagascar has a star-shaped flower that releases its fragrance at night and held its nectar on the bottom of a thin foot-long tube. Darwin predicted its pollinator had an unprecedentedly long proboscis, which is an elongated appendage usually attached to the head of an animal, like an elephant's trunk. Twenty-one years after Darwin's death, scientists discovered *Xanthopan marganii*, a moth that indeed had an unusually long proboscis.



Britannica.com



Robert Clark - Evolution

## The Secrets Of Orchid Genetics (*continued*)

To unlock the secrets of orchid complexity, plant developmental biologist Chang-Hsien Yang at National Chung Hsing University in Taichung, Taiwan, and his colleagues investigated the genetic mechanisms that make orchids different from other flowering plants. While most flowers have protective sepals surrounding the petals that are merely green and leaf-like, orchid sepals are colored and ornamented just like petals to help attract pollinators. In addition to their normal petals, most orchids have an unusually large petal known as a lip that can serve as a landing platform for insects and take on the outstanding shapes that many orchids use to deceive and lure pollinators.

The nature of most flowers can be explained by five classes of plant genes -- labelled A, B, C, D and E -- interacting to develop floral organs. The B-class genes are especially key to petal formation. However, scientists could not figure out how exactly this ABCDE model helped create the orchid lip.

"For instance, you might find one B-class gene active in the lip that helped explain lip formation, but it was also active in petals," Yang said. "That didn't make sense if you thought only a single gene was responsible for lip formation — such a gene should be expressed exclusively in the lip."

Instead, Yang and his colleagues discovered that orchid flower shape is determined by two groups of protein complexes, which they call the L or lip complex and the SP or sepal-petal complex. These complexes, which are each composed of four proteins, compete to promote the formation of the lip and petals, respectively. When the researchers used a virus-based strategy to silence the L complex within the lips of two orchid species, they became like petals and sepals, and when they stifled the SP complex within petals, they became lip-like.

Yang calls their discovery the Perianth code, referring to the structure formed by the petals and sepals. They found many subfamilies of orchids with different types of lips and petals all obeyed this code, according to the findings detailed online April 27, 2015 in the journal [Nature Plants](#). "It's been known for a long time that the current plant genetic models are not completely applicable to orchids," said Gravendeel, who did not take part in this research. "This very simple Perianth code model is very elegant at explaining lip formation. We thought it would be more complex than this."

In principle, this research could lead to new genetically-modified orchids where petals and sepals are converted to lips or vice versa, Yang said. However, in practice, the method that scientists often use to genetically modify other plants does not work well in orchids.

"Genetic transformation in orchids is extremely difficult and time-consuming," Yang said. The researchers now plan to identify the genes that go on to control the size, shapes and colors of the lips, sepals and petals. "There are many more aspects to how orchid flowers attract pollinators," Gravendeel said.

# Pete's Orchids

## My Oldest Orchid -- Pete O'Connell

In the mid-1950s my Grandfather had a heart attack. He had to go on disability and without drugs, stents or bypass surgery, the most common treatment was to move to a warmer climate. (He lived until 1968, so pretty good.) Anyway, they moved to Inverness, Florida, right in the middle of the state. Three or four years later, when I was around 10, we began annual family trips to see either my Grandmother and Aunt and Uncle in Minneapolis, or my Grandparents in Florida. It was always the first two weeks in August as my Father worked at Burt's in Endicott and they shut down for annual vacation those two weeks every year.

So, around 1960, we drove 3 days to Inverness. They had a nice, typical Florida house with a huge Live Oak in the front yard. Hanging in that tree was the most beautiful orchid plant I had ever seen. Left by the previous owner, it was high off the ground, probably in a basket and was covered with lavender and purple blossoms I had had no idea, nor did I care what variety it was. I begged for a piece and left with a nice division.

As some of you know, our parents were avid gardeners. We three kids inherited those genes. I had already crossed, grown and blossomed an iris hybrid. They were (then) my favorite.

In any case I had help nurturing and blossoming this plant throughout public school and college and to my first house in 1976, where I built an attached, double-walled, plastic greenhouse. There it flourished. In that greenhouse it bloomed every year, in February or March, and sometimes sporadically in the summer, maybe due to often high temperatures inside the south facing greenhouse in the winter.

This orchid survived this house, our two houses in Cortland, one with a greenhouse, the Lake House and now this orchid is growing and blooming in Key West, almost back to where it was in the 1950s. Just a little farther south. It blooms here in January or February. I never figured why it bloomed early the year I got it, but I did, over the years, identify it as a Venezuelan species, growing at up to 6000 feet in elevation. *Cattleya percivaliana*. I now have some other forms as well, alba and coerulea (bluish), and some awarded ones like 'Summit'. The photo was just taken of the original, in bloom around 60 years after I first was given it.



# Pete's Orchids



Tolumnia Jairak Rainbow seedling



Phal. (K S Super Zebra x Yaphon Nicegirl) seedling - Very Fragrant



Lc. Cherokee Star (Lc Trick or Treat 'Orange Magic' AM/AOS x L anceps 'White Wonder')

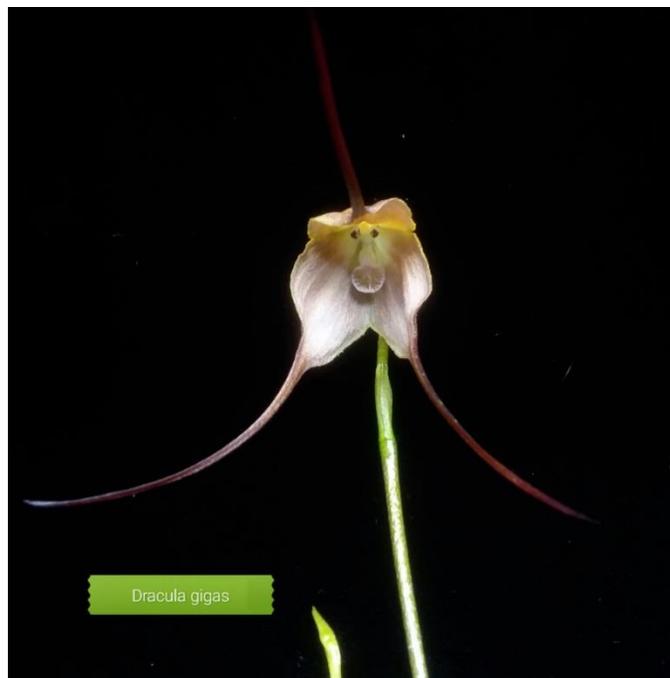
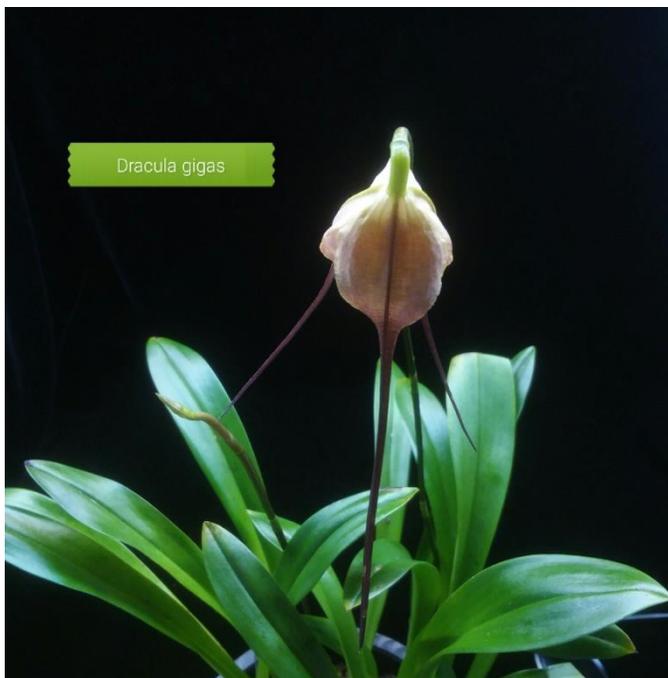


Right-upper: Pot. Triple Love '#6'  
From STOS Auction a few years ago

Right-lower: Gct, Sogo Doll  
'Jennifer' - 1994 Cross



# John Zygmunt 's Orchids



*Dracula giga* comes from Columbia and Ecuador growing in virgin cloud forest. It likes shade, cool to cold conditions. As with most *Draculas* they need high humidity otherwise you get brown leaf tips. The flower is pendant and doesn't look like much unless you raise the flower and look inside. Surprise! This is why *Draculas* are called the "monkey faced orchid".



*Bulbophyllum ecornutum* comes from SE Asia - Borneo. It likes dappled light, cool to warm conditions and likes to run so I grow it in bonsai pots or mounts. It is a miniature and will bloom off back bulbs. I have learned not to cut them off. I have found it easy to grow, hard to kill.

# Laurel Shaefer's Orchids



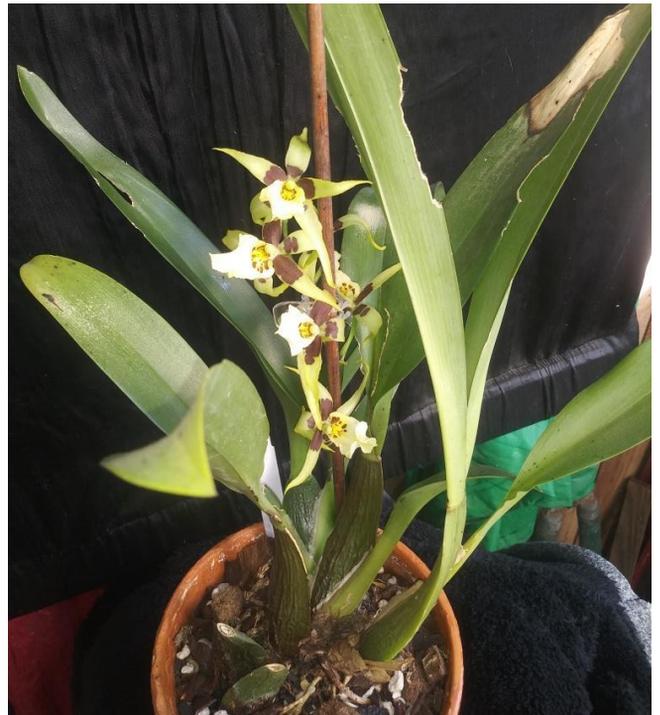
Clowesia Grace Dunn 'Looking Glass' four spikes, average of 15 flowers per spike



Brassavola 'Little Stars' three spikes, two not open yet



Oncidium Kuquat 'Lake View'



Maclellanara Yellow Star 'Golden Gambol'

# Member Show Table



Phalaenopsis --Rich Thomas



*Phalaenopsis aphrodite* --Steven Hess

Nancy Wolf's windowsill, featuring Den. Chocolate Chip and a Phal from the fall auction



# Member Show Table



Brassavola 'Little Stars' is a popular orchid that blooms this time of year. Very fragrant at night. It was my STOS holiday plant in 2019.  
– Carol Bayles



Paph. Petula's Presence. From STOS fall auction in 2018. One of 2 dark Paphs that bloomed for me this season.  
– Carol Bayles



## Feedback Request

Luis Matienzo provides extensive background along with his orchid photos. He is desiring some feedback on his approach, as he spends considerable time on this. If you find this information interesting and worthwhile, please leave a comment at STOSorchids@gmail. On the other hand, if you find it to be too much and you don't bother to read it, he would like to know that, too. Everyone sending photos for our show table is encouraged to provide some additional information. John Zygmunt does this already. This way we learn something about the orchid as we enjoy the pictures. Of course, this is not required and we still want to see pictures of your blooming orchids.