January 2021

Southern Tier Orchid Society

https://www.SouthernTierOrchids.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to STOS Members!

I hope everyone had a good holiday and was able to connect with family and friends, even if only virtually.
While it is good to put 2020 behind us, 2021 will likely have a rough start. Let's all hope for improvement by the summer.

About twenty members attended Greg Griffis' excellent talk at the last meeting, 'Achieving Orchid Excellence.' Greg explained ways to go from just healthy orchids to really fabulous orchids. The presentation was very interesting and Greg also answered our many questions. If you could not attend, we do have a YouTube video of his talk that will be available until Jan 17. All members received the link, but if you need it again, just send an email to the club.

This week we will have a speaker from Florida, thanks to the wonders of technology. Arthur Katz will speak on "Rare and Unusual Orchids."

"See" you at the Zoom meeting.

--Carol Bayles

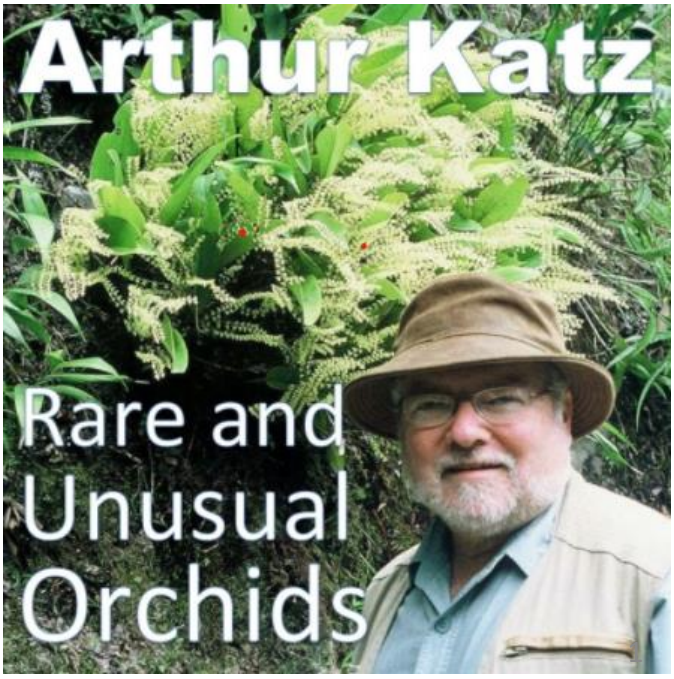
AOS Orchids Magazine

All available issues of Orchids have been sent out.

Arthur Katz will present "Rare and Unusual Orchids" at the January 17 meeting

Arthur Katz has been growing orchids for over 35 years. His orchid interests range from the pleurothalidinae to the phragmepidiums, from the maxillarias to the laelias. In particular, he appreciates the orchids that are unique and unusual.
Arthur is an accredited orchid judge, was Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Judging Center and Chair of the Florida North-Central Center. Since 1994, he has taken groups of orchid enthusiast to Ecuador every year, exploring for orchids in Southeast Ecuador.

Apart from orchids and socializing with orchid folk, he enjoys traveling and photography. Arthur was a clinical psychologist in private practice in his pre-Florida life.



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Carol Bayles
Contributions, including pictures to the STOS newsletter from members are welcomed! Contributions must be submitted by the 5th of the month to the editor at cjb4@cornell.edu

Web Site:
http://www.southerntierorchids.org

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTierOrchidSocietyNY

Email address:
STOSorchids@gmail.com

Discounts on STOS Orchid Order

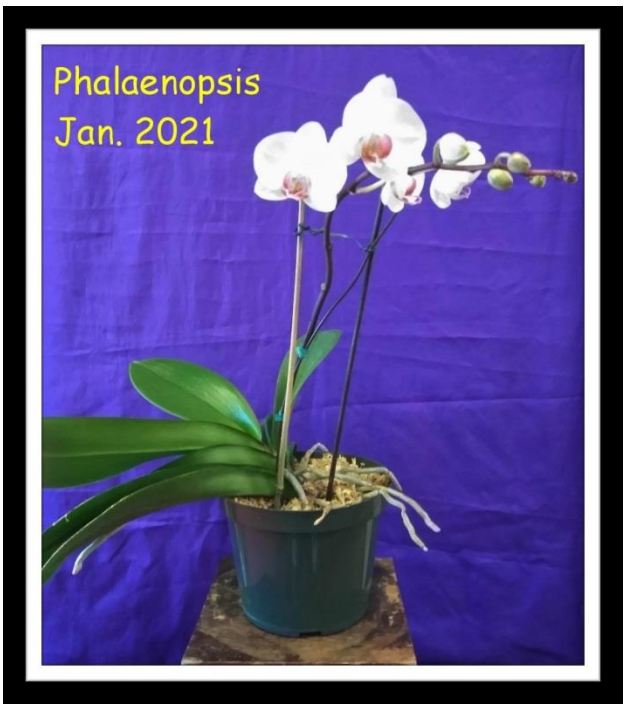
Fred Clarke will be our speaker on Feb 21 and will speak on **"Cycnoches, Mormodes, Catasetums recent trends,"** orchids we don't hear about as often.

Fred owns Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, CA and is offering 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. Details to follow.
https://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com/htm/ordering.html

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.

January 17, 2021	General Meeting, Speaker Arthur Katz
February 21, 2021	General Meeting, Speaker Fred Clarke
March 21, 2021	General Meeting
April 18, 2021	General Meeting



Unknown Phalaenopsis from auction
--Richard Thomas

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from General Meeting on Dec. 20, 2020

Zoom meeting called to order by President Carol Bayles at 2:13 pm.
Approved minutes of the November meeting as printed in the December newsletter.

Treasure report Jane Trey -our balance is $10,013.
We made a donation to the AOS for orchid conservation and to the northeast judging center, and received a thank you note from John Sullivan.

AOS report Bernice McGee – AOS magazines are available for loan. The December magazines have been sent to those who requested them, and the January magazines are available and will be sent to anyone requesting them.
A suggestion was made to investigate using postal "media" rate which is about half of standard mail rates. Delivery expected to be slower, but a cost savings.

Auction report Pete O'Connell – We had 82 items total. We had a total profit of $843. Significant profit was from donated items.

Donated plants raised $268
Donated plant stands and pots raised $199
Donated Potting mix raised $52

38 plants were sold; the others were used as Christmas plants for members.

The auction did very well compared to previous years due to the item donations from members, thanks to John Zygmunt, Gail Gunsalus and Jo (and Diana) Schalkey for their generosity. The board has discussed doing a spring auction in April, with a shorter time frame from receiving the plants and distributing the plants, so they are in better condition. We may consider having a live auction segment where competitive bids can be received. Part of the reason is because of the 83 items auctioned, 35 only had one bid. One item received 9 bids.
We received a lot of positive feedback, and there might be some interest in having some more exotic and special orchids.

The report was followed by many accolades of how well the auction went. Expressions of gratitude for Jane for receiving and distributing the auction plants, and to Pete for ordering and organizing.

Old business – we are transitioning to our new email account; **stosorchids@gmail.com**
We are looking for a new newsletter editor.
The current editor requests that you please name your show pictures for ease of sorting and describing in the newsletter.

Carol inquired about member's health
Lori Cabot's health. She is still in recovery from brain aneurysm surgery but remains plagued by continuing headaches.
John Zygmunt had a complicated heart procedure that worked for 2 days, he went to the hospital again and now with medication adjustment he is feeling better. His advice is don't get old.

New business : election of officers; {all voted in by a show of hands}

President ~ Carol Bayles
Vice President ~ Gail Gunsalus
Treasurer ~ Jane Trey
Secretary ~ Ben Cabot
American Orchid Society rep. (AOS) ~ Bernice McGee

Members at large Board Member appointments;

Luis Matienzo – 1 more year
Sharon Voorhees – 2 more years
Jean Mint – 3 years

Show table; many members showed a wide variety of orchids with their stories.

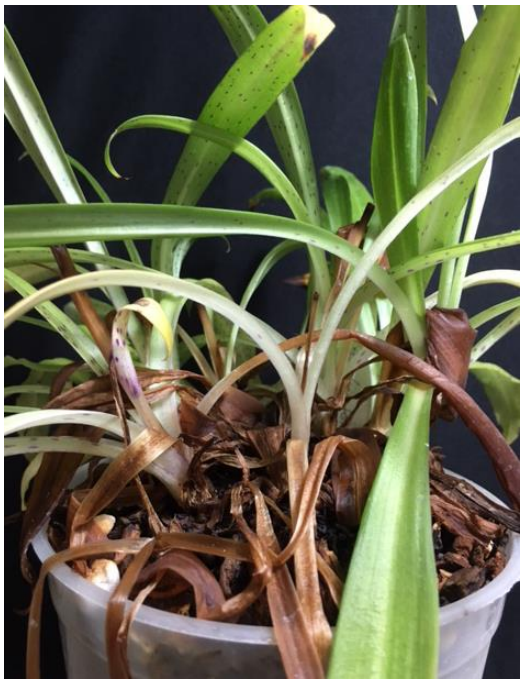
Virtual Guest speaker was Greg Griffiths from Longwood Gardens speaking on "Achieving Orchid Excellence".

Adjourned at ~ 3:45pm
Submitted by
Ben Cabot, Secretary.

SOME REMARKS ON ORCHID POLIINATION AND ORCHIDS AS HOUSE PLANTS
L.J. MATIENZO

Recently, Ken Hull, member of STOS asked the following question: “Are there pollinators for cultivated orchids and if so what are they, or are they all self-pollinating?”
My intention in this article is to describe some cases that differentiate wild orchids (more specifically native orchids from NYS since Ken mentioned them) from orchids grown as house plants. Most native orchids lose their leaves during the autumn and winter months until they start growing again. These orchids have very specific pollinators. My approach will include several cases that will explain what we expect to find with some orchids and their behavior when they are treated as house plants.

Stenoglottis longifolia:
A couple of months ago I showed a picture of this species in a newsletter. It rewarded us with plenty of flowering spikes. The flowers were never pollinated and remained open for 5 weeks. Now, the plant is losing its leaves and it will remain in this state for 2 months before new growths and new leaves appear. The images below show these stages of the same plant before and during the dormancy period.



Guarlanthe aurantiaca:
This species from Mexico and through Central America is notorious for producing flowers that tend to pollinate themselves before they open up. So if you ever grow this type of plant, you must select a plant in flower and not in bud otherwise it could cause you some disappointments. This particular species is a bi-foliate plant and keeps its leaves. See image next page.

Image source: Orchideen-Wichman.de, December 5 2020)

Dendrobium primulinum:
This orchid is a representative species of the genus *Dendrobium* and it drops its leaves. The images present the three stages that this species goes through every year in order to flower. In addition, the plant needs low water and lower than normal temperatures to flower. If these conditions are not followed, many plantlets may develop at the nodes instead of flower buds. *Dendrobium nobile, anosmum* and *parishii* behave in a similar fashion.

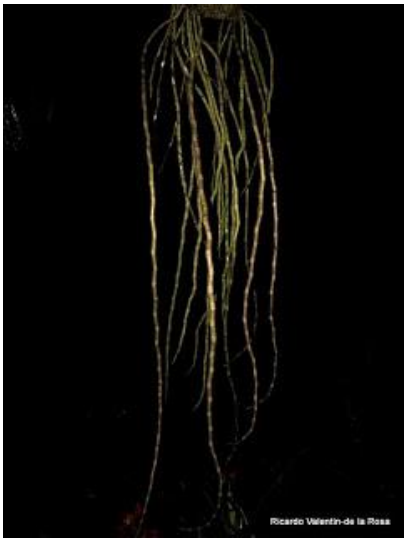


Photo credits:
Ricardogupi.blogspot.com (December 5, 2020): First two images
Dendrobium primulinum: Photo by Wang 2013/04/11 (http://www.orchid.url.tw/myflowers/

***Holcoglossum amesianum*:**
This is an orchid that has recently been reported by Ke-Weu Li, et al. (Nature 441(7096):945-6 July2006) to induce self- pollination by a never seen before mechanism. The abstract to their publication appears below:

Abstract: Mating in flowering plants normally relies on animals, wind, gravity or secretion to convey pollen grains from the male (anther) to the female (stigma) organ. Here we describe a new type of self-pollination mechanism in the tree-living orchid *Holcoglossum amesianum*, in which the bisexual flower turns its anther against gravity through 360 degrees in order to insert pollen into its own stigma cavity - without the aid of any pollinating agent or medium. This mode of self-pollination, which occurs under windless, drought conditions when insects are scarce, adds to the variety of mechanisms that have evolved in angiosperms to ensure their reproductive success.

Image source:
Wikimedia Commons (December 5 2020): Curtis's botanical magazine vol. 116 tab. 7139
(http://www.botanicus.org/page/441685

Promenea riograndensis
This is a miniature species native to Brazil that tends to flower in June through July. A few months ago I showed a picture of my plant in a newsletter and I include it below. Since this plant has not been outdoors for at least three years, one of the flowers was recently pollinated. I do not believe that is due to neither self-pollination nor artificial pollination by a *Homo sapiens (me)*. My conclusion to this happening is that all orchid growing environments, be a greenhouse

or indoors at home, contain even a minute amount of critters such as fungus gnats, ants that feed on secretions produced by the flowers themselves or other pests. It appears hard to admit the existence of critters in any collection but this is always a concern especially if you grow other plants besides orchids and you do not wish to use dangerous pesticides. Problems with your plants will develop if you let infestations win the battle. This plant does not lose its leaves.

Man-made hybrids:

These plants are made either by selecting two genetically compatible plants in flower and mechanically moving the pollen from one flower to the second flower devoid of pollen. Artificial methods of propagation also include cloning using the meristematic tissue of orchids to produce carbon copies of a desirable plant. *Paphiopedilums* and *Phragmipediums* are the exception but *Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis* and many *Dendrobiums* and *Vandas* can be cloned.

In conclusion, orchids, especially species, grown as house plants, have characteristics that are written in their genetic codes and cannot differentiate between natural and artificial environments. The success with these plants depends on your growing abilities and understanding their requirements. This is especially true for species more than hybrids because species come from very specific environments. Hybrids contain a combination of traits from both parents and they are more forgiving (see for example Blc. Fritz Nickolaus 'Spring Dance', image below) a clone produced by Carmela Orchids, Hawaii. These orchids will allow you to get what you expect but hybrids grown from seed may provide pleasant surprises and AOS awards.

ACQUAINTING YOURSELF WITH PHALAENOPSIS TYPES
LUIS J. MATIENZO

Having read in the December issue of our newsletter the description of one of John Zygmunt's *Phalaenopsis* and its unknown provenance, I set myself to identify this hybrid.

I wanted to explain that this genus of species and hybrids has an extensive range of sizes and flower colors. We may find species in nature that are white, yellow, green, red, brown or some with tinges of blue or combinations of one more color shade. When these species are combined to produce hybrids they may yield a variety of pleasing features that can be selected to be propagated by cloning to make them commercially available in the general flower market. This approach is extensively used in places like The Netherlands and Taiwan.

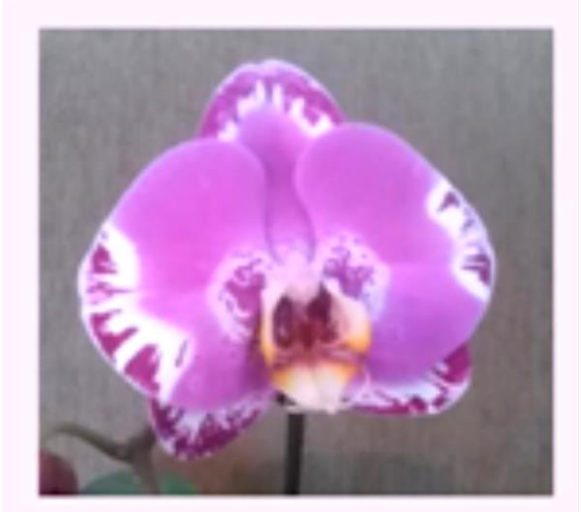
These combinations of species have been used for many years to yield a variety of flowers that may not resemble their progeny anymore since many generations of hybrids may have been used. As a consequence of these trends of hybridization we may have hybrids with a single color (for example **Sogo Yukidian**) or reduced size (i.e. mini phals such as **Timothy Christopher**). Others may be known for their lip coloration as red lip *Phalaenopsis (*for example **Fancy Lipstick**), striations on their sepals and petals or candy striped hybrids (such as **Baldan's Kaleidoscope**), some with extensive points on a lighter highlight (harlequin types such as **Yu Pin Pearl**), novelty with unusual colors and/or patterns (such as **Jennifer Palermo**) or picotee-flowers with a feather-like appearance on their petals and sepals (such as **Chiada Francis 'Picotee'**). In summary, identification of a *Phalaenopsis* hybrid, especially one without a label, can be quite challenging. The reasons are two-fold: little is known about the originator or the parents that were used or the hybrid lacks registration in the RHS Orchid Register. The consequences of entering an unidentified hybrid into an orchid show by a hobbyist may yield only ribbon awards and not AOS awards.

Being intrigued by John's flower I set myself to identify it. I can say with certainty this flower can be classified as a picotee type hybrid (see above). The second observation that a hybridizer has to make is to understand how the flower appearance could be obtained. A combination of striping and a solid coloration may yield the desired effect and variations thereof.

The hybrid that was featured in the previous newsletter can be identified as Phal. Taiwan Red Cat, hybrid registered by Orchis Flor from Taiwan in 2006. The Orchid Register indicates the parents of this cross are *Phalaenopsis* Taiwan Smith (seed parent) and *Phalaenopsis* Kun-Cheng (pollen parent).

From what is currently known, several clones of this *Phalaenopsis* exist and only those with the desired effects have been propagated artificially to make them commercially available. Images of *Phalaenopsis* Taiwan Red Cat and its parents appear below.

Phalaenopsis Taiwan Red Cat



Phalaenopsis Taiwan Smith

Phalaenopsis Kun-Cheng

A VIRTUAL DISPLAY OF FLOWERING PLANTS AT OUR HOME
L.J. MATIENZO
(January 2021)

With the changing temperatures and reduced light available some orchids have been rewarding us with a multitude of flowers. I would like to share some of the ones that are presently open and in the next newsletter I will present some others that I am sure will be flowering.

SPECIES:

Pleurothallis acestrophylla:
This is a plant that is found exclusively in Southern Ecuador and Northern Peru. This plant was initially described by C. Lauer in 1975 from a specimen from Ecuador and named *acronia acestrophylla* but its accepted name by **The World Checklist of Plant Families** (RHS) is listed above. The name of the species refers to the leaf shape rather than the flower itself. A translation of the species name describes it as "the plant with knitting needle-like leaves". The flowers are only ¼ inch across and they appear on top of the leaves. The flowering can occur at any time of the year and the flowers can vary in color from this yellow form to one with redder upper portions. This plan is happy in a small pot with sphagnum moss and it loves a humid environment.

HYBRIDS:

***Phragmipedium* Lutz Roelke 'Matienzo':**
This is a primary cross between *Phrag. besseae and Phrag. boiserianum,* two Peruvian species. The type of *Phrag. besseae that was used for the cross was the flavum form (*i.e. yellow form) The resulting flowers are yellow with orange highlights and they are 5 inches across. Each spike carries two or three sequential flowers that last more than 3 weeks.

***Paphiopedilum* Green Globe 'Dew Drop' AM/AOS S/CSA:**
This plant is a complex *Paphiopedilum* cross that has received both an AM/AOS award and a silver medal award from the Cymbidium Society of America (CSA). It is an excellent flower with green and subtle white fringe on its dorsal. The flowers are 4 inches across.

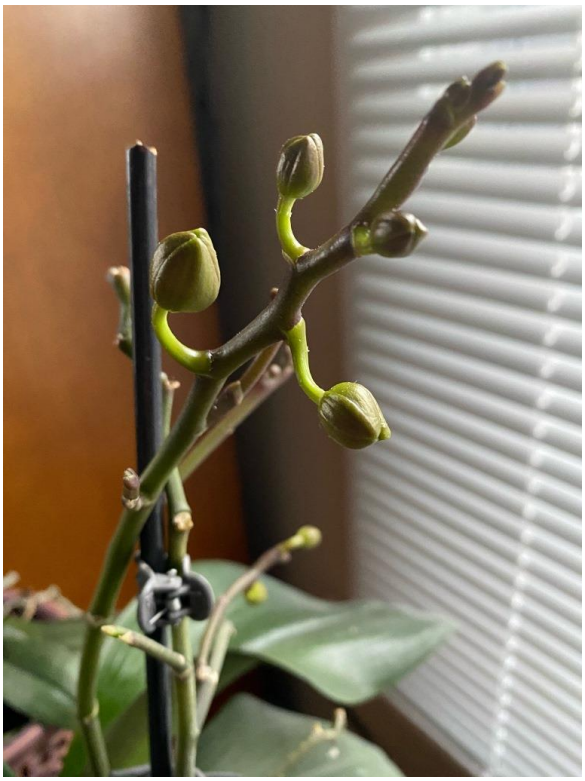
***Paphiopedilum* (Volcano Road "Ruth Leuthans" AM/AOS x Macabre Contrasts "Ruth Leuthans" AM/AOS) 'Matienzo':**
This is an unregistered vinicolor *paphiopedilum* that is flowering for the first time. At this point, the hybridizer has not decided how to name it but the combination of parents has produced an excellent hybrid with a span of 4 1/2 inches. I am sure that some of the seedlings of this cross will receive AOS awards.

Member Show Table

Brassivola nodosa
--Hanna Spring VanArsdale

Dinema polybulbon
-- Hanna Spring VanArsdale

Masdevallia ventricosa from Ecuador. --
John Zygmunt



Phalaenopsis from auction – Steven Hess

Member Show Table

Wilsonara Tiger Brew 'Pacific Holiday' (Oda. Memoria Rudolf Pabst x Odcdm. Tiger Hambuhren) -- Steven Hess

Unknown Phalaenopsis from John Z.– Nancy Wolf

Miltonidium Red Brick Road 'Arbec'. – Laurel Schafer

Onc. "Sharry Baby"' –Laurel Schafer

Member Show Table

My first orchid came from a florist on Valentines Day in 2013. Now it is up to 22 blooms lasting for 6-10 months every year.—Jessica Bebel

Paph Odette's Fair and unknown Phal from auction -- Gail Gunsalus

Left-right: Dinema polybulbon, Mediocalar decorotum. Onc. Twinkle Toes
-- Gail Gunsalus

Dendrobium from auction -- Gail Gunsalus

Member Show Table

Blc. Chomthong Fancy
Flower on left is the first out on the bottom of stem. Right is the top flower. The flowers do not change color as they age, they simply bloom with different color in the lips. Won at a Key West Orchid Society meeting for having the best hybrid that day. 2020. In bark --Pete O'Connell

Cattleya Sir Jeremiah Coleman
Mounted for two years on a Palm tree
Have had this orchid since 1992 --Pete O'Connell

Phal. Nobby's Green Eagle x Chiayi Yellow Green 'FANGtastic' Fragrant Phalaenopsis Cross- First Bloom. In coconut husk basket.
From Normans 2020 --Pete O'Connell

Member Show Table

Blc. Sa-Ngob Delight From original Cross.
Unnamed clone. Fragrant.
On Cedar Shingle. --Pete O'Connell

Cattleya maxima (species) v. coerulea
Very Fragrant. On cedar shingle. From Normans in 2011 --Pete O'Connell

Cattleya Ethyl's Paradise 'Kalapana'
From STOS Auction 2016. On cedar shingle. Long lasting. Slight fragrance—Pete O'Connell

Pot. "Triple Love#1" from online auction, all flowers blooming now.—Geof Gould

Member Show Table

New unnamed hybrid from Sunset Valley Orchids 2020. On cedar shingle. First bloom. Fragrant. Parents below. – Pete O'Connell

Cattleya Peckaviensis 'SVO' HCC/AOS
(C. aclandiae x C. schilleriana)
provided the spots— Image from web

Cattleya luteola 'South River' (species)
provided the lip shape – Pete O'Connell