



Volume 27  
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## October Meeting:

We will be having another meeting this month, on October 17th. Our speaker will be Bret Ullery, of Accent Orchids. Bret will be bringing orchids for sale, so NCOS members will NOT be able to sell orchids at this meeting. COVID restrictions still do not permit us to offer refreshments, so if you want them please bring your own. As in September, masks will be mandatory and we will check your temperature as you enter.

The October meeting will be our last of 2020, as we will be unable to hold our picnic or Christmas party this year.

### CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS/EVENTS FOR NATURE COAST ORCHID SOCIETY FOR BALANCE OF 2020

- October 17th : Accent Orchids

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**OFFICERS**

<b><u>President</u></b>	Steve Mattana
<b><u>Past President</u></b>	Jeff Rundell
<b><u>1st Vice President</u></b>	Geary Harris
<b><u>2nd Vice President</u></b>	Sharon Wagner
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	Pat Baig
<b><u>Executive Secretary</u></b>	Pat Dupke
<b><u>Advisory Capacity</u></b>	Helen Battistrada
<b><u>Recording Secretary for meetings</u></b> (not an elected position)	Kara Ramsey

**COMMITTEES**

<b><u>Bulletin (The Keiki)</u></b>	Matt Riesz and Julie Smolka
<b><u>E-mail Co-ordinator</u></b>	Tim Smith
<b><u>Historian</u></b>	Mary Lou Mattana
<b><u>Librarian</u></b>	Celeste Ogden
<b><u>Membership</u></b>	Arlene Appelbaum, Carol VanderLaan
<b><u>Publicity</u></b>	Mary Lou Mattana
<b><u>Refreshment Table</u></b>	<b>Volunteers please</b>
<b><u>Refreshment Reminders</u></b>	Mary Lou Mattana
<b><u>Show Table Report</u></b>	Matt Riesz
<b><u>Speaker Segment Writer</u></b>	Kara Ramsey
<b><u>Trips</u></b>	Sonia Terrelonge
<b><u>Webmaster</u></b> (Website set up by Ken Dunn)	Bob East
<b><u>AOS Representative</u></b>	Matt Riesz



**Activities that are low risk of contracting Covid19**

- Watering your orchids
- Fertilising your orchids
- Repotting your orchids
- Talking to your orchids
- Looking at orchids online
- Buying orchids online
- Weeding your orchids
- Having a coffee with your orchids
- Enjoying the sun with your orchids
- Exercising around your orchids
- Pruning your orchids

**Looks like having orchids is the best prevention**

**Happy gardening 😊**



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

By Pat Baig

<b>Prior balance:</b>	<b>\$10239.08</b>
<b>Total receipts (raffle, etc.)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Balance as of 8/30/2019</b>	<b>\$10199.08</b>



## President's Message

### From Steve Mattana

Good day, everyone!

Well we had our first meeting after the COVID-19 break. For a last-minute decision to have a meeting it was great to see everyone and everyone enjoying themselves. It did turn out quite well. We had an amazing amount of members sale plants and of course Joyce Fowler did amazing job with all of her plants. Everybody sold plants everybody bought plants, and everybody was happy, what a great day. Then we had our show table, wow! We had a fantastic mix of flowers and blooms and scents. See the photo album of the members' plants later in this newsletter. Our raffle table was certainly full of plants and we had quite few winners in the drawing. Congrats to all who won.

We introduced a new second vice president Sharon Wagner, new treasurer. And a new temporary board secretary Linda Moore. Yvette Lewis has stepped up to be the treasurer. Two trustees were added as well, they are Deborah Smith and Mary Fadoul.

Dave Fowler will now be taking up advertising for all our events.

We will have a meeting on Saturday, Oct 17th at the VFW. Doors will open at noon. The meeting will start at 1 PM. Our guest speaker will be Bret Ullery from Accent Orchids. Brett will be speaking about Dendrobiums and about getting your plants ready for winter. It's the perfect time for this presentation.

If you want food or drinks Bring Your Own.

We are getting ready to order fertilizer, Mega Thrive, and Physan from Norman's Orchids again this year. Be sure to get in touch with me if you are interested so that we know how much to order. Once we place the order we'll have a better idea about the member price for these items. We may run out!! So, give me an email or phone call to set aside your order.

Until our next meeting, be safe and well.

S

## Membership Notes for July



By Arlene Appelbaum

For a complete membership list send a message to

[ncos2gether@gmail.com](mailto:ncos2gether@gmail.com).

No membership report this month. We did get several new members at our September meeting Welcome, all!

### MEMBERS:

Arlene has graciously taken over sending get-well cards and sympathy cards to members. If you know of any members who are ill or grieving, please send her an email to let her know at [fluffy2cats@gmail.com](mailto:fluffy2cats@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!



## NCOS ORCHID QUIZ

*Answers on page 16*

1. What orchid produced both male and female flowers, sometimes on the same plant?
  - A. Phalaenopsis
  - B. Catasetum
  - C. Cattleya
  - D. Vanda
2. The majority of Catasetum orchids are native to
  - A. New Mexico
  - B. Chile
  - C. Brazil
  - D. Argentina
3. Notable care requirement of catasetum
  - A. Frequent watering during growth period
  - B. Ample fertilizer during growth period
  - C. Period of no water
  - D. All of the above
4. Repot Catasetum orchids
  - A. Any time
  - B. When in bloom
  - C. Early spring when growth begins
  - D. When growth reaches 4" & plenty of roots
5. True or False: The male flowers are famous for their habit of forcefully ejecting pollinia

# NCOS Show Table September, 2020

Plant Name	Grower
Phal. Yellow Beauty	David & Joyce Fowler
Odn Pacific Paranoia 'Other Side of Cool'	Matt Riesz
Habenaria dentata	Matt Riesz
Ctsm. Sherriff Frank Drew	Matt Riesz
Lc. Trick of Treat	Jeff Rundell
Lc. Dinard 'Blue Heaven'	Julie Smolka
Lc. Christian Starr 'Tribute'	Julie Smolka
Phal. bellina 'Michael's F4' x Phal. bellina 'Montclair'	Steve Mattana
Phal. bellina var. murtoniana ('Jungle' x 'Wild Thing')	Steve Mattana
C. Motte Spot 'Paradise'	??
Pot. Hsinying Pink Doll 'Hsinying' AM-AOS	??
Ctsm. Black Jade	??
Phalaenopsis pulcherrima h.v. champornensis	??

*Note: the designation "h.v." in a name means "horticultural variety", and is applied to varieties named by someone but not taxonomically validated. Those that have been validated are designated by the word "var." in the name.*





**Ctism. Black Jade**



**Ctism. Sherriff Frank Drew**



**Phal. bellina 'Michael's F4'  
x Phal. bellina 'Montclair'**



**Phal. bellina var. murtoniana  
( 'Jungle' x 'Wild Thing' )**



**Pot. Hsinying Pink Doll 'Hsinying'  
AM/AOS**



**Phal. Yellow Beauty**



**Lc. Dinard 'Blue Heaven'**



**C. Motte Spot 'Paradise'**



**Lc. Trick or Treat**



**Lc. Christian Starr 'Tribute'**



**Habenaria dentata**



**Odtna Pacific Paranoia 'Other Side of Cool'**

## Desire and Destruction

by

**Jeff Rundell**

I have to admit that, on my first visit to Glen Decker's Piping Rock orchid business, I could never have imagined a tale would emerge that would rock the orchid world to its foundation. Our little orchid club had to travel several hours south to Glen's greenhouses in Galway, NY (near Albany). They were as immaculate as any I had ever seen. Compared to Florida, there was little evidence that this was even an orchid business, since it was located in a quiet suburban neighborhood without a sign of the tropical features that identify our local growers. He was well spoken and clean cut, exactly what you'd expect after seeing his modern setup with benches sliding gracefully on rails, computer controls, new to the business then, and not a single dead leaf in sight. But what attracted my attention even more, and frankly made my jaw hit the floor, were a few rows of seedlings to one side of his potting benches labelled *Phrag. Kovachii* - \$150.00!

My trip, with other members of our tiny Adirondack Orchid Society, never expected to encounter an orchid entrepreneur and one of the most controversial plants on the planet in the same place in rural northern New York. I had visited slipper orchid growers before and there was no doubt in my mind that they were, shall we say, an unusual subset of orchid growers in general. Close to my childhood home in Rochester, NY, I used to visit Bloomfield Orchids run by a fellow named Joe Kurisch, who chain smoked while he followed me through his collections. After I selected a few plants, he insisted we sit down on some lawn chairs and drink a few of his favorite beer, Grolsch, in those fancy swing-top stoppered bottles. His knowledge of the slipper orchid trade and the characters that populated it convinced me that I would be better off starting with something less demanding. But Glen Decker was much more laid back and spoke confidently, almost matter-of-fact, about those \$150 plants. While he addressed the group, I actually wondered if he had surveillance cameras on them or had ever had to deal with orchid shoplifting. It was also the first time I was exposed to the advancing frontiers of orchid exploration. *Phragmipedium kovachii* was the newest, most coveted orchid in the world then and initially sold for thousands of dollars.

In order to understand how this orchid tsunami dragged under some of the biggest names and institutions, some background is essential. The best source is a book by Craig Pittman, who writes for the former St. Pete Times and has authored other books on Florida's natural history. I'm sure, when he wrote "Scent of a Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most

Beautiful Orchid" in 2012, he never thought the cast of characters would number over 40. Most of us are familiar with C.I.T.E.S. treaty (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and that member countries must regulate and enforce restrictions on the international movement of designated species and that includes most orchid species. In the early halcyon days of orchid collecting, explorers were hailed as heroes for bringing home ship loads of plants soon to die in overheated victorian glass houses. Growers had not learned the secrets of orchid seed germination and were a century away from mericlone propagation. Many of the scientific names we apply to our species honor these intrepid people that are seen today by indigenous people in the countries they "visited" more as pirates than patrons. Forgive this digression from the story but I think, as orchid lovers who appreciate the natural world, we all need to decide who this "bioprospecting" is most likely to benefit. Cases in point include the little Rosy Periwinkle from Madagascar (source of the cancer drug Vincristine), Hoodia, Enola bean and Neem tree. All of these were the biologic property of the countries and people they are indigenous to, but found their way into commerce with little, if any, benefit to the those that originally cultivated them. To take this a step further (and out of the orchid realm) the effect that the explosion of wealth in China has had on many species has been devastating. Elephants slaughtered by the thousands for the carved ivory trade; tigers and rhino horns ground up as phony medicine; and Rosewood trees almost eliminated for game tables. There is a good chance your grandchildren will never see any of them except on film or in a zoo.

Orchids are a \$40 billion dollars business world wide and, believe it or not, \$20 billion of it finds a home in Florida.

Long ago I recall visiting a place south of Miami called Redland Spice park. It was filled with all sorts of exotic trees, herbs and spices that would grow nowhere else in the country. Then along came hurricane Andrew in '92 to wipe the slate clean. It now is the home of the largest orchid show on earth with such a powerful attraction that it has even drawn some of our members out of their beds and onto a bus at hours favored only by my backyard armadillos. But back in May 1992 the word spread around the show, that a new and spectacular plant from Peru had secretly surfaced. The "word" continued that the new plant would even outshine that beautiful red Phrag. besseae that originally sold for over \$1,000. Remember that the plant named for Libby Besse was immediately, and almost completely, stripped from its home in Peru. Among the people most anxious to see the new star were those from the most venerable orchid institution in the USA - Selby Gardens in Sarasota. Big discoveries can bring in big contributions to research centers like Selby. It just happened that a couple of Selby people were at that show and got wind of the new discovery hiding under a table amongst the hun-

dreds of booths. One was John Beckner, who never located the table, but the other was Bob Scully. Some of you may recall he was a major grower in Miami until Andrew came along. He moved to Sarasota to become Selby's Chairman and infused his demanding nature on all he met.

If you have never been to Selby you are missing something special. I wish I could go once a month, every month, because their display is always changing. Some things you will see nowhere else, like a giant strap leafed pleurothallid that looks like an elephant tongue hanging down with a bouquet of flowers in its mouth. I have written to Selby before with questions about orchid genetics, but never have received anything more than a polite: "Our research scientists are too busy to answer public questions". Well, okay, but as we'll see, there is no one beyond the long green thumbs of the law.



Mr\_ Kovach, for whom the orchid is named, is not at all like the intrepid explorers of the past. He is the sort of person I would have liked to have met, providing my hand was firmly grasping my wallet. He seems to be a God-fearing ex-hippie with a penchant for taking a gamble and a belief that he was ordained to discover something marvelous. After all, he lived in Goldvein Virginia, the former center of a long played out gold mining industry. It's not completely clear to

me how he met Manuel Arias and wandered into Peru. But it is clear that the sometime importer eventually turned into a fugitive smuggler. It was he that introduced Kovach to a farmer named Faustino Bautista with ten hungry kids, who knew the location of an orchid that Kovach would see twice. The first time, the plant looked ordinary but the second time, it was blooming and sent shivers up and down their backs, not just from the deep rich color, but also the fact that, as each day passed, the bloom got bigger and bigger - sometimes over 8 inches across.

Of course, the plot thickens from there, and frankly, I have trouble keeping all the players straight, but that's a story for the next Keiki.

## **NCOS Meeting Minutes**

### **Saturday, September 19th, 2020.**

We had a few members that brought some plants in to sell, which they did! We had a very nice turn out of hungry orchidists, that added to their collections. The meeting began promptly at 1 PM. Steve went over the treasurer's report and some other business. A date has been decided on for our orchid show next year, it will be the last weekend in March: 27th & 28th, with setup on the 26th. We had a few speakers for our first meeting since February and the COVID-19 outbreak. It was good to see everyone and to see brand new members. Along with four new members, we introduced a new second Vice President to our society. Her name is Sharon Wagner. We're very excited about her being on our board. She already has some incredible surprises lined up for us as speakers for the coming year. Our speaker for next month will be Bret Ulery, from Accent Orchids. He will be bringing plants for sale. Sharon lined that up for us really quick. Yvette Lewis was also introduced to our society as our new treasurer as Pat Baig has retired from that position. Pat did a fantastic job over the past three years. We want to thank Pat Baig for her service to our society. Two trustees were also added and were introduced to our group, Debbie Smith and Mary Fadoul will each be a trustee.

Our program consisted of Matt Riesz talking about orchids that need a dry rest period: *Catasetums* and *Habenarias*. *Catasetums* are quite an interesting plant in that they actually have both male and female flowers, which are colored and shaped differently. Stop watering them when their leaves die or on January 1st, whichever comes sooner. Do not give them any water again until new growths have appeared and are at least 4 inches long and new roots are also about 3 inches long. *Habenarias* also go completely dormant for the winter. Stop watering or feeding them after their foliage dies, and do not start again until you see signs of new growth. Jeff Rundell did a presentation on air plants. He showed some of the mounts he created with air plants and small orchids, as they grow similar. Everyone was quite surprised on the variety of air plants that grow natively here in Florida.

Joyce Fowler from Joy Orchids mentioned that the time for members to redeem their coupon from the society towards a new plant will be on October 3rd between 12:00 Noon to 3:00PM and October 10th from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. Come to Joy Orchids' greenhouse at 6060 Casson St., Brooksville, 34604 and present your signed membership card to receive your discount toward plants you buy from Joyce and David. Joyce asks that you bring a folding chair to sit on if you want to stay and visit, and a box to put your orchids in if you intend to shop.

Steve and Matt then went over the show table. There was a fabulous selection brought in by our members.

We concluded the presentation part of our meeting with an abundance of raffle plants. We will have another meeting next month on October 17th, this will be our last gathering until our monthly meeting in January.

## The American Orchid Society Webinars

Webinars are online video presentations. You can register for an upcoming webinar or watch the recorded webinars any time. Some webinars require you to be an AOS member.

### Upcoming Webinars

#### Greenhouse Chat for October

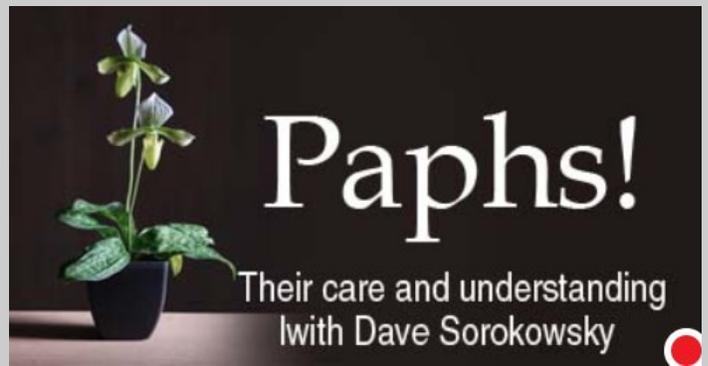
Tuesday, October 6th, 2020  
8:30pm EDT

Join Dr. Ron McHatton as he answers your questions about all things orchids. Send questions to [greenhousechat@aos.org](mailto:greenhousechat@aos.org) by October 2

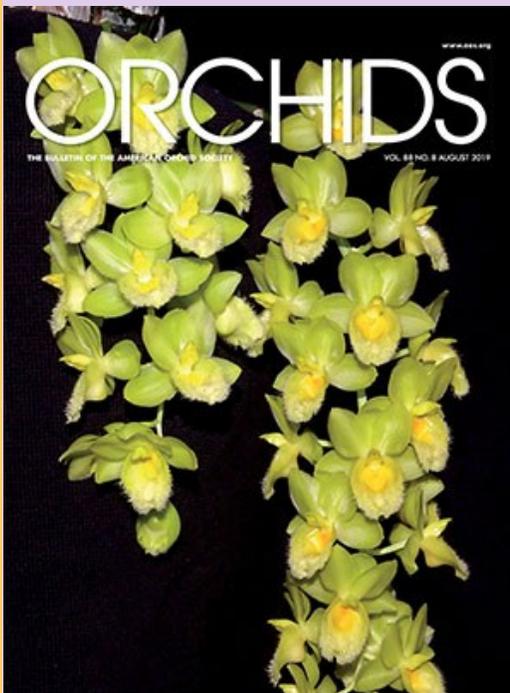
#### AOS Members: October Webinar

Tuesday, October 20th, 2020  
8:30pm EDT

Join Dave Sorokowsky for some great tips for growing these popular slipper orchids.



Just click on: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>  
and you can watch these videos at your convenience.



#### Orchids Magazine

In addition to our normal monthly issue, October brings our annual supplement to Orchids magazine. Seeing spots? Perhaps stripes? Maybe both? This year's supplement is devoted entirely to spotted and striped orchids across a wide array of often-grown genera. Just how did all those fabulously colored hybrids we have come about. You won't want to miss this supplement.

In the main October issue:

- The New Refugium Botanicum - TBD
- Collector's Item - The Good, the bad, and the real stinkers; Bulbophyllum section Racemosae by Charles Wilson
- Orchids Illustrated - James Bateman by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- GreatIdeas - Another method to minimize seed loss by Charles Wilson
- Paphiopedilum sukhakulii and its Hybrids. Seeing Spots! by Esteban (Steve) Gonzalez-Costa
- Some Unusual Orchids From the Papuan Highlands by Spiro Kasomenakis
- Growing Orchids is a Partnership - Allan Watson
- Lindleyana - Rare and Threatened Orchids of Central Africa, Part 2 by Murielle Simo-Droissart, Tariq Stévar, Bonaventure Sonké and Vincent Droissart

# YOUR ORCHID LIBRARY

By Celeste Ogden

<http://www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-checkout-books.html>



How do I get a book from the Club's Library?

1. Just Click on: [www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-alphabetical-list-books.html](http://www.naturecoastorchidsociety.com/library-alphabetical-list-books.html)
2. Select Books or CD's you think would be useful and order right on the web page.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### Orchids In Colour #300-12 by: Brian & Wilma Rittershausen

Orchids In Colour has been written with the amateur orchid grower and enthusiast in mind. It contains a wealth of cultural information which provides guidelines for the beginner, and includes many details regarding the most popular orchids which are in cultivation today. This is an informative and easy to read book with 105 full color photos.

Select any number(s) that you would like to spend some time with and then you can sign them out at the next Members' Meeting. Keep them for 1 month and return them at the following meeting and remove your name from the list.

If you have any questions about our Library Books, my email address is: [c1948ogden@gmail.com](mailto:c1948ogden@gmail.com)



**Nature Coast  
Orchid Society**

The Society meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 1pm, at the Spring Hill VFW Post 8681 18940 Drayton St. at County Line Rd

Enjoy great speakers, fantastic raffle prizes and beautiful orchids on display.

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

### Answers to quiz

1. *B. Catasetum*
2. *C. Brazil*
3. *D. All of the above*
4. *D. When growth 4" & lots of roots*
5. *True*