

# Southern Tier Orchid Society

May 2020

[HTTP://WWW.SOUTHERNTIERORCHIDS.ORG](http://www.southerntierorchids.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Orchid Lovers,

I really miss seeing you all and the social interaction at our meetings. In lieu of our May meeting, we have the show table here in the newsletter. See what your fellow club members have or had blooming this spring.

I hope you all are keeping busy, either working or finding things to keep you occupied. The weather has been so gloomy that I finally bought lights for my orchids, despite having copious south and west windows. Now that I am retired I have plenty of time to take care of my orchids and they get a lot more attention, misting and such. I am always examining them for signs of spring growth, either roots or shoots, and many of them are starting. The only ones in bloom now are some big box Phalaenopsis, which have been blooming since Christmas. One is on its second round. Sometimes they are nice to have. My last Cattleya flower just dropped and my mini Dendrobium (see show table) just dropped all its flowers at once (they all open at once, too).

At this point it is too early to decide on the September meeting and auction or the summer picnic. We won't be having a newsletter in the summer, but I will keep you posted via email on future events.

Let's hope that opening up New York doesn't lead to another shutdown and that here in the Southern Tier we find that we are pretty safe. Though I am sure many of you will continue safe practices until the vaccine relieves us. Let's hope it does.

Carol Bayles, President

## ORCHID STAMPS, EARLY DECISIONS

Orchid stamps have always been popular and collectible; many countries have published beautiful images of their native orchids. They are often framed and featured at orchid exhibitions around the world including recently at the United States Botanic Garden. The US Postal service intended to have a modern series of orchid stamps and they produced a beautifully photographed set of cultivated, windowsill type orchids, including some 'blue-dyed' ones.

Thankfully, they took the trouble to ask the opinion of some orchid experts about the series. Dr. Kenneth Cameron, professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison saw the images and respectfully suggested that although lovely, a selection of native American orchid species would resonate strongly with their customers and would even educate them about the astounding beauty of our native orchid heritage. Dr. Cameron suggested that they look to nature photographer extraordinaire, Jim Fowler of Greenville, South Carolina for some samples. The Postal Service checked out his extraordinary nature blog at [jfowlerphotography.com](http://jfowlerphotography.com) and knew they had struck gold. Jim has been taking photos of wildflowers for decades and has graciously shared them with the world through his blog, his flicker and pbase sites as well as many of the images on the Native American Orchid Conservation Center's fantastic GoOrchids webpage and database (<https://northamericanorchidcenter.org>). Jim has also written and photo-illustrated two terrific books, available on Amazon: *Wild Orchids of South Carolina: A Popular Natural History* in 2005, and *Orchids, Carnivorous Plants and Other Wildflowers of the Green Swamp of North Carolina* in 2015.

If you want an incredible visual treat, go to see his wild orchids of North America page on Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/22032600@N04/sets/72157623846282487/>. Do it when you have some time, as you can spend many hours there.

*Adapted from "The Rest of the Story" by Thomas Mirenda in the May2020 issue of ORCHIDS from AOS.*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Jane Trey

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Ben Cabot

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Bernice Magee

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Luis Matienzo

### Newsletter Editor

Renee DePrato

*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.*

### Web Site:

<http://www.southerntierorchids.org>

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernTierOrchidSocietyInc.1992>

### Email:

[southerntierorchidsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:southerntierorchidsociety@yahoo.com)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Don't forget to pay your annual membership dues for the 2020 club year.

Many member have still not paid. Membership dues help us provide quality programs, cover costs, and provide member benefits. Still only \$20!

## APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Our April meeting was cancelled due to NYS PAUSE, which bans all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason.

Treasures report - Jane Trey - We earned \$7.98 in dividends for March and \$6.62 for April. There were no expenditures in April. Our Fall Auction, which is our main fundraiser, is scheduled for September 20, 2020.

## CLUB CANCELLATIONS

New York State remains on PAUSE through May 15, which bans all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason.

All Southern Tier Orchid Society activities that were planned for May have been cancelled.

## FROM THE AOS WEBSITE

Mealybugs are serious pests of orchids and next to scale insects are probably the most difficult to control pests of orchids in homes and greenhouses. Most definitely, they need to be dealt with immediately upon discovery. The damage done to plants by mealybugs is considerable, causing a loss of vigor and a weakening and loss of leaves, buds, and flowers through their feeding. In addition, mealybugs create copious amounts of honeydew which make plant parts sticky, attracts ants, and provides a substrate for sooty mold. Though some mealybugs vector plant viruses apparently no orchid viruses are known to be transmitted by these insects. Mealybugs are not particular about their host and probably all species of orchids are susceptible to mealybugs, especially when cultivated.

For information regarding management and control of this pest, visit <http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases/mealybugs.aspx>

It is sad that another pest COVID 19 is a global pandemic. A situation affecting everyone. Requiring gloves, mask, excessive hand washing, and living isolated. Some of us have seen damage done among our hobby of Orchid care by mealy bugs. In your personal life, be safe, stay vigilant sanitizing your environment, apart we can avoid extinction.

Does anyone know if hand sanitizer is a cure for mealy bugs?

Until we meet again,  
May the best be yours.  
Ben Cabot Secretary.



## ANSWERS TO ORCHIDS CLASSIFIED USING THE 2019 SHOW SCHEDULE



**1 - Miltassia Dark Star**  
Oncidium alliance (G):  
Class 51



**2 - Broughtonia sanguinea**  
(s) Cattleya alliance (B):  
Class 7



**3 - Onc. Pupukea Sunset**  
Oncidium alliance (G):  
Class 46



**4 - Epidendrum secundum**  
(s) Botanicals (I): Class 64



**5 - Phrag. Grande**  
Paphiopedilum + allied  
gen. (D): Class 25



**6 - Miltoniopsis  
Ambers Charm**  
Oncidium alliance (G):  
Class 49



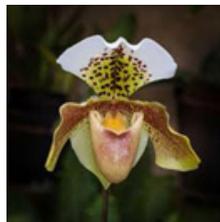
**7 - Renanetia Sunset**  
Botanicals (I): Class 65



**8 - Slc. Jewel Box**  
Cattleya alliance (B): Class 11



**9 - Masdevallia  
Cheryl Shohan**  
Pleurothallid alliance (H):  
Class 54



**10 - Paphiopedilum  
Nn Longwood**  
Paphiopedilum + allied  
gen. (D): Class 23



**11 - Pleurothallis sp (s)**  
Pleuro.(H) and botanicals (I):  
Classes 56 and 66



**12 - Paph. Deception  
II (niveum x delenatii)**  
Paphiopedilum + allied gen.  
(D): Class 20



**13 - Cochleanthes  
Amazing**  
Botanicals (I): Class 65



**14 - Masd. lucernula (s)**  
Pleuro. (H) and Botanicals  
(I): Classes 53 and 66



**15 - Restrepia elegans (s)**  
Pleuro. (H) and Botanicals (I):  
Classes 57, 58, 66



**16 - Phalaenopsis Ms. Red  
Orange Sweetie**  
Vanda and Phal. Alliance (E):  
Class 39

**Note:** Miniatures are defined by the conventions established by each orchid show. Typically, one definition may suggest that the total height of the plant and inflorescence may be no higher than 10 inches.

Entry 7 is a hybrid between a renanthera and a neofinetia which yields the genus renanetia

In a few cases such as those of entries 11 and 15, these plants can be entered into three different categories since they meet several specific criteria.

- Luis J. Matienzo

## VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE



### **Warcewiczella discolor**

This is a species that can be found from Central America to Peru. The genus is named after Josef Warcewicz, a Polish commercial orchid collector for Van Houte (Belgium), a firm active in selling orchids in the mid 19th century. Grown under lights. - Luis Matienzo



**Pot. (Birthday Dream x Tiny Titan) 'Carmela'.** First time this seedling from the May 2014 repotting workshop. has bloomed. -Jane Trey



### **Gan Lin Royal-Yellow 'P. T.'**

From the 2018 Long Island Show, with its compact form and nice color, it's been blooming for about a month.- John Zygmunt



### **Phragmipedium Scarlett O'Hara 'Joan' AM/AOS**

This plant is a hybrid of phrag. besseae and phrag. Jason Fischer. The latter hybrid is the result of crossing phrag. Mem. Dick Clements with phrag. besseae. Phrag. Mem. Dick Clements results from crossing phrag. sargentianum with phrag. besseae. The resulting intense red color comes from the use of phrag. besseae three times into the development of phrag. Scarlett O'Hara. No need to pursue deeper red tones. My plant shows a reduced pouch due to the change in temperature during flower opening. Grown under lights. - Luis Matienzo



### **Bulbophyllum ecornutum**

Miniature from SE Asia, planted in an Bonsai pot with a cent for size. Likes to bloom off old back bulbs.- John Zygmunt



**VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE (CONTINUED)**



**Bulbophyllum odontopetalum**

One of John Z's plants from the raffle table several years ago.  
- Jane Trey



**Leptotes bicolor**

A species with terete leaves native to Brazil and Paraguay. It prefers to grow mounted but with care, it can be grown in a pot. The flowers are produced twice a year (Spring and Fall) and they are weakly scented. Grown under lights. - Luis Matienzo



**Bulbophyllum longissimum**

From Thailand, in a Bonsai pot, this 6" flower just opened. - John Zygmunt



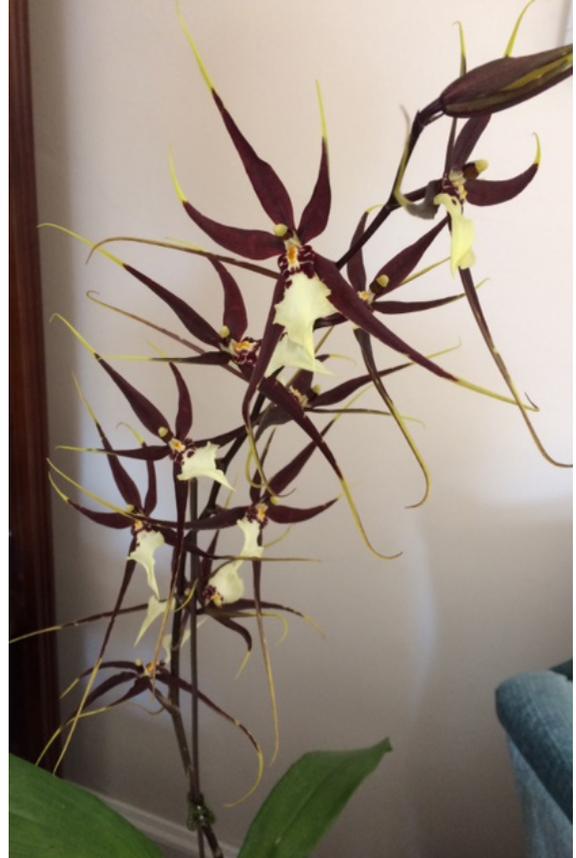
**Dendrobium "Ueang Pheung" (Den. jenkinsii x Den. aggregatum (syn) lindleyi)**

I bought this in 2016 from the Orchidphile at the Rochester Show. It blooms every year, with more flowers each year. It is supposed to be fragrant, but mine isn't. -Carol Bayles



**Phragmipedium Grouville**

This plant is a hybrid created by the Eric Young Foundation (Isle of Jersey). The hybrid is a cross of phrag. Eric Young (phrag. besseae x phrag. longifolium) and phrag. Hanne Popow which results from crossing phrag. schlimii and phrag. besseae. This plant is a multifloral and it can produce three sequential flowers. Grown under lights. - Luis Matienzo



**Mtssa Kauai's Choice 'Tropical Fragrance' AM/AOS**

From Orchids By Hausermann. It was their April Orchid-of-the-Month selection. Very fragrant. -Jane Trey

## VIRTUAL SHOW TABLE (CONTINUED)



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### PHRAGMIPEDIUM: FORTUITOUS DISCOVERIES

The discovery of *Phragmipedium besseae*, a spectacular red-flowered South American orchid species, in 1981, revitalized interest in growing *Phragmipedium* species and their hybrids. Mrs. Elizabeth Besse, a member of an orchid collecting party from the Selby Botanic Gardens (Florida), was the first to find this species in the wild. Apparently she found it by accident while answering a call of nature! It was growing in semi-shade on wet granite rocks at an altitude of 1100m in Peru. Subsequently other colonies of the species were found further north in Ecuador, again growing on wet granite rocks at altitudes of 1000-1200m. It remains a mystery why such an eye-catching species was not discovered earlier, for orchid collectors had been traversing its mountainous habitat for over a century. Apparently it is never found in large numbers but the brilliant red color of its 4-6cm flowers would make it difficult to miss. Presumably earlier collectors passed by when it was out of flower.

Then *Phragmipedium kovachii* eclipsed *P besseae* to become what many believe to be the most important orchid species found in the past 100 years. In May of 2002 James Michael Kovach purchased three plants from a roadside dealer in El Progreso, Peru, who also told him where they were found. Kovach showed the 18 cm deep purple flower to Lee Moore, a dealer in orchids with growing facilities in Peru and Florida, who told him "...you've got the Holy Grail of orchids." Shortly thereafter Kovach smuggled them into the United States. Kovach was detained at the airport since he did not have proper documentation. He sent one of the obviously new and spectacular plants to Selby Gardens (Florida), where it was described and quickly published with Kovach's name in *Selbyana* (the Selby Gardens publication) on June 12, 2002. In the meantime, a group of Peruvian orchid enthusiasts had heard of the new plant and contacted Eric Christensen, a former Selby horticulturist. Christensen promptly described it and, based solely on the description, not the actual plant, the AOS published the new orchid in July of 2002 with the name suggested by Christensen, *P peruvianum*, for the people of Peru. However, based on prior publication, the species was established as *Phragmipedium kovachii*.



(Photos not to scale) 1. *P besseae*, John Marcotte , The Orchids of Canada Website 2. Robs Choice AM/AOS, 2020 Orchids Limited.  
3. *P kovachii*, Isaias Rolando, MD

The Peruvian government, however, was not pleased. In 2003, they asked the US Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate because all species of *Phragmipedium* are protected under the Committee on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Kovach was arrested for illegally transporting the plants, having violated the Endangered Species Act. Although facing a maximum of 2 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, in the end Kovach received a sentence of just two years probation and a \$1,000 fine. This was a pretty small price to pay for universal and eternal fame. Criminal charges were also filed against Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and its chief horticulturist, Wesley Higgins, for violating the Endangered Species Act by possessing the smuggled orchid. Selby Gardens and Higgins were fined \$5,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

Eventually the species was propagated with permission of the Peruvian government and sold legally by two orchid outfits, with initial lab work and flasking done in Peru. This unusual plant enticed others to illegal profiting. Manuel Arias, a Peruvian exporter of orchids, was fined for purposely mislabeling plants of this new species and selling these plants at exorbitant prices outside Peru. Arias was detained in Miami and months later he escaped from U.S. custody and currently lives in Lima, Peru. On the legal side, Glen Decker, one of our speakers at STOS last fall, has been growing seedlings legally imported from Centro de Jardinierav Manrique, Lima, Peru. Today we have many seedlings and hybrids of *P kovachii*.

Not to be out done, little *P besseae* now boasts a 4N (tetraploid or twice the normal chromosome number) hybrid that reaches 10 cm in width: 'Rob's Choice' AM/AOS ('Eat My Dust' x 'Ozone'). It may not surpass *P kovachii* in size, but it has that red color. Of course, crossing Rob's Choice with *P kovachii* ...it never ends.

#### Excerpts from:

Milligan, Brian, 'All the Colors of the Rainbow', The Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc. (OSCOV) <https://oscov.asn.au/articles/all-colours-of-the-rainbow-by-brian-milligan/>

Zelenko, Harry, 'Phragmipedium kovachii', Orchids, May 2015 vol 84.

[https://secure.aos.org/digital-library/201505orch\\_84-05/default.aspx#36](https://secure.aos.org/digital-library/201505orch_84-05/default.aspx#36)

#### Other References:

Clever Geek Handbook <https://clever-geek.github.io/articles/2320448/index.html>

Decker, Glen, 'Phragmipedium kovachii', Orchids, Nov 2007 vol 76.

[https://secure.aos.org/digital-library/200711orch\\_76-11/default.aspx#\[object%20Object\]](https://secure.aos.org/digital-library/200711orch_76-11/default.aspx#[object%20Object])

OrchidWeb <https://www.orchidweb.com/orchids/phragmipedium/species/phrag-besseae-robs-choice-am-aos-4n-eat-my-dust-x-ozone>

Travaldo's Blog <https://travaldo.blogspot.com/2018/01/phragmipedium-besseae-care-and-culture.html>

Van Zile, Jon, 'Orchid Napping', South Florida Sun-Sentinel, August 6, 2004 <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2004-08-06-0408041097-story.html>

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