

# BROS ORCHIDS

Baton  
Rouge  
Orchid  
Society



The Newsletter Of  
The Baton Rouge  
Orchid Society



**7 PM, Wed**

**Oct 20, 2021**



We are meeting at Burden!

*Frank Zachariah*

**'The Ultimate Guide to  
Growing Orchids'**

v

Or you can watch us by Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89379610613?  
pwd=b3BiaWhkSWJ6Z1ZVbU1rSVNVMMVFRQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89379610613?pwd=b3BiaWhkSWJ6Z1ZVbU1rSVNVMMVFRQT09)

# Frank Zachariah

**We will be meeting at the Burden Conference Center  
Wed, 7 PM 4560 Essen Lane [Bring your mask]**

**or watch by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89379610613?pwd=b3BiaWhkSWJ6Z1ZVbU1rSVNVMVFRQT09>**

## **“The Ultimate Guide For Growing Orchids”**



That’s a mighty big topic, Frank! He better have some pretty important information. He does have a double major in botany and horticulture. Let’s see how much he remembers.

We all think we are growing the best way. Some of what we’re doing is undoubtedly helpful, some is ... uh, not harmful, and some should be corrected. Let’s see which parts of our technique go in each category.

There’s so much information out there now. A good bit is accurate — some is silly. But even a good publication like AOS Orchids, has a recommendation which we can’t do in the deep South and another which we shouldn’t.

Hopefully, everyone – including the speaker – will come away a better informed grower.

**BIO:** Frank is supposed to be semi-retired but he still seems to have a lot of flowers.

# Minutes from the Sep Meeting

The meeting started with pictures of the Conservatory showing Hurricane Ida's damage. Besides the shade cloth being blown off most of the orchids were off the benches. The floor looked like a ski slope from all the styrofoam peanuts. A special thanks went out to the members who have worked to restore order in the greenhouse.

Jim Morrison was awarded the Orchid Digest Diamond Award for establishing and maintaining the Society's database, website, and the development of a computer program to register and make labels for our annual orchid show. These are just a few of his contributions as he has been the go to person for many years.

The September program was presented by our own member Glenn Gawarecki on growing vanilla orchids. He presented step-by-step slides on his success in growing the vines up to his pollinating the flowers.

These were his main points:

The vanilla orchid is a vining orchid with over 100 different species that originated in Mexico. It is semi-epiphytic with roots in the ground as well as attaching to whatever it grows on.

Culture- cattleya light and humid temperatures,

Media - light and crumbly that drains quickly - coco husks and perlite, no potting soil

Water when slightly dry, it needs a short dry period before blooming

Vines grow fast and like to attach to wood, Glenn uses cedar boards and monitors the side growth that emerge from the leaf nodes.

50% shade cloth

Fertilize lightly

Propagation— by cuttings- use a media of pro-mix and bark,

Cut piece with 2 or 3 nodes and let the ends harden off

Cut off any leaves that will be in the mix

Anchor them, water lightly, mist exposed roots, filtered light until rooted.

Caution - the sap can cause skin irritation so wear gloves

Glenn's vanilla orchid had three flower buds in February with the first flower opening at the end of June. The flowers were hand pollinated since they are only open one day. The standard bloom time is January through June.

His presentation went on to explain the harvesting and processing of the vanilla beans.

*Patty Granier* (Secretary)

Glenn's presentation on Vanilla Orchids can be viewed at: [https://youtu.be/twcwY2LU\\_0k](https://youtu.be/twcwY2LU_0k)

Dotty Woodson's talk in Aug on Lady's Slipper Orchids: <https://youtu.be/wwF5-J2q0D8>

## Oct Membership News



We have a few Oct birthdays to recognize:

- Mona Budden
- Anne Gregory
- Kim Kensill
- Melissa LeJeune
- Kathy Lopiparo
- Nancy Morrison
- Cheryl Wilks

All members (primary for family units) should have received an email from BROS indicating dues are due November 1. If you have not seen this email, please check your junk or spam folders. If you cannot find the email, please let me know so we can find the issue.

Bob Lank has graciously agreed to help with membership this month for the meeting in my absence. You can give him membership dues.

*As Always,  
Nancy Morrison  
Membership Chair*

# LSU Conservatory

## Notes by Frank Z

Our greenhouse mascot is the Cuban anole [lft] — or maybe, C. Lulu Land [rt] (which seems to bloom all the time).

Still a lot of recovery work.

Photos by Glenn Gawareski  
(plus he has a whole other page)



# Orchid Conservatory

## Photos by Peter Grant



# Orchid Conservatory

Photos by Glenn Gawarecki



# Photos by Lata Johnson



**We have a featured writer for the Newsletter!**

**This is Pat Cannings' first article.**

**(Technically, it is the 2nd.) Both are enjoyable reads.**



## **Lady Macbeth in the Greenhouse**

Pat Canning

It's orchid day. Hal designates at least one day per week to water, fertilize, and love the orchids. I've had about two hours of quiet in the house and was ready for some together time. So out to the greenhouse I go. As I open the door, I see him standing there – armed with a spray bottle in one hand and a phal in the other. “OUT DAMNED BUG, OUT I SAY.” Having studied my fair share of Shakespeare in school, I gently say, no, Hal it's SPOT not BUG. He looks at me, brows knitted together. That is not a SPOT. It's a BUG, a d@mned MEALYBUG. That's his profanity, not mine. I thought orchids were supposed to be a pleasant hobby, but not today. I peer at the targeted plant. Where? I say, Where. There, he says, right – right there. Squirt, Squirt. Unlike Lady Macbeth, he has no remorse, - he squirts and kills, squirts and kills. I look at the targeted spot, uh bug, the tiniest of tiny white thing, it looks like a cotton speck.

So, in an attempt to diffuse this situation and to lower his blood pressure a bit, I ask, “How can a tiny little bug be such a big deal that turns you into a Lady Macbeth squirt bottle warrior?” Ah, I see calm in his eyes, his demeanor changes and he settles into a teaching moment. Being the supportive wife that I am, I prepare for another lesson in orchiding.

Mealybugs are classified in the family Pseudococcidae and are in the genera *Pseudococcus*, *Planococcus*, *Phenacoccus*, and *Dysmicoccus*. In most of Canada and the United States, the longtailed mealybug (*Pseudococcus longispinus*) is probably the most common and problematic species on orchids, particularly in homes and greenhouses. (I try not to let my eyes roll too far to the back of my head.) Keep it simple please. He goes on. Mealybugs are one of the most difficult pests to control; and, if left unchecked will lead to weakened and lost leaves, buds and flowers. Death by mealybug. Sounds terrible to me. “How did they get there,” I ask. Orchids become infested with mealybugs in some combination of three methods: purchase of an infested plant, movement from infested to un-infested plants that are in contact with each other, and windblown colonization. Mealybugs are active and will crawl from one plant to another, pot to pot, and across benches. They like to hide inside the sheaths and in the roots. Mealybugs will leave plants and hide under rims of pots and trays, in bench crevices, and even drop from overhead plants. (Sounds like some science fiction movie happening right here in the greenhouse! Tiny little cotton balls marching across all kinds of terrain and parachuting from above.)

## Lady Macbeth in the Greenhouse (cont)



Hal proceeds to talk about those pesky bugs. Mealybugs have a three-stage life history: egg, larva (nymph or crawler), and adult. Eggs are laid within a waxy coated egg sac produced by the female. The eggs hatch after about 10 days into the mobile nymphs, the crawlers, that appear as diminutive adults. The crawlers are the most active stage that can move between plants and will develop through several growth periods before becoming adults. Adults of most species are also active. They will move about to find feeding sites. However, the most common pest species is the longtailed mealybug and it is parthenogenetic (there's a 25¢ word for you); no males are known of this species. Because the life cycle of mealybugs can be so short combined with the overlapping of generations, you will need to do a treatment every 10-14 days in order to bring a serious problem under control.

"So, how to you treat them?" I ask. I just knew what was coming -the deadly squirt bottle. He goes on. Probably the most popular home remedy against mealybugs is to swab and daub plants with a cotton-tipped swab or ball of cotton dipped in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or simply use a baby wipe. Do not use other alcohols, such as ethanol or methanol, that can penetrate the plant tissues and cause considerable damage! The common 70% isopropyl available in stores is satisfactory. On hard-leaved plants, gentle rubbing with the fingers, a cotton ball, cotton-tipped swab, or a soft infant's toothbrush is effective. Remove all mealybugs, large and small. Afterwards, you will still need to repeat the alcohol treatment to remove the tiny yellowish spots which are the recently hatched crawlers. Pay particular attention to the folds, crotches, branch bases, midrib areas, and roots. Spraying the alcohol with a misting bottle or small pump sprayer is effective, but dribbling alcohol into tight areas is necessary. To avoid getting a spray solution on windowsills, tabletops, furniture, non-target plants, etc., move the plant(s) to a large sink, bathtub, or shower stall, then move them back to the growing area when they dry.

Many home growers will mix with alcohol a small amount of mild liquid dish detergent, and sometimes mineral oil, neem oil, or horticultural oil. Vegetable oils will work, too, but in sunlight they can turn rancid quickly, and become smelly and lose effectiveness. Yuck!

One recipe for a 1.5 liter spray bottle is to mix a 50:50 solution of isopropyl and water, with a few drops to about a teaspoon of liquid soap to act as a spreader, and a teaspoon of one of the oils. It seems that every grower has their own proportions of these ingredients, none of which seem to work significantly better than another. Also, spraying of alcohol is not always effective against eggs which are often well hidden, hence the need for thoroughness and repetition.

Then, as though a switch had flipped in his brain, he grabbed that squirt bottle and took aim. I knew my lesson was over. I quietly slipped out of the greenhouse as **OUT DAMN BUG, OUT I SAY** rang out. I hope Mr. Shakespeare can forgive my use of one his most famous quotes. I will take it a step further and alter the last sentence in that soliloquy; "Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much ~~blood~~ knowledge in him."



## Lady Macbeth in the Greenhouse (cont)

### Lessons learned:

1. Check your plants (everywhere – roots, sheaths, etc.) before introducing them to your collection.
2. Social Distancing - keep adequate spacing between your plants (almost impossible for any orchid grower I know).
3. Check your benches, floor, ceiling, pots, etc for those cottony looking thingys.
4. Treating for mealybugs is not a one and done process.
5. Be vigilant
6. Be diligent
7. Use the following references as I did for extensive explanations: (Hal didn't really say all of this)

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/Johnson-Mealybugs.pdf>

<https://staugorchidsociety.org/PDF/200011Tips Mealybugs.pdf>



## Thoughts & Memorium

Our condolences to Carolyn Clay on the death of her sister, Barbara Hawkins, on September 19 at age 86. A memorial service was held on Friday, September 24th.

Eliska Fauntleroy's husband John died peacefully in his sleep last night. The family is currently in Florence, MS with their daughter where they evacuated before Hurricane Ida. His body has been taken to Hammond where they live. The family is to meet at the funeral home at 9 a.m. Monday morning to make funeral arrangements. We will publish the arrangements when we find out what they are.

Long time members of BROS will remember Lane & Myra Seab who were active in BROS, Green Growers, and Orchids for Seniors for a number of years. Lane passed away on July 27 at age 78. He loved cymbidiums and will be remembered for growing beautiful ones in Miracle-Gro potting soil. Lane and Myra were married for 52 years and had 3 daughters and twin sons. Private graveside rites were held on August 16, 2021, at Roselawn Cemetery.

We received word from Trey Ourso about the passing of his Mother, Bonnie Selby, a former member of our society. Bonnie asked her family to donate all her orchids to the Conservatory. We will have a write up in the Nov Newsletter.

I wanted to thank all the members for their well wishes after my recent surgery. So glad I know you all & are part of this group.

If members know about health issues of other members, please let me know.

*Nancy Morrison*



## What's On Your Christmas List?



Please email me items that you would like to receive for Christmas for your orchid growing endeavors. Or, something that you received that you really appreciated and that you didn't know you wanted or needed! Attach an explanation as to its use, if not obvious, and where to get it, if hard to find. Also include an approximate cost.



And, no, I am not going to play Santa and leave a nice little package under your tree. I will, however, compile a list for the next newsletter that you can look at. You may find something on there that you can buy for your orchid buddy or put on your own Christmas list.

[pcanning@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcanning@bellsouth.net)



**There were 4 awards given  
last month in Alexandria at  
our Louisiana Orchid Judging Center.**

**Ctsm. Louise Clark  
'Wonder Woman', HCC/AOS  
Grower: W F Caldwell**



**Vanda Noppadel Delight  
'Julia Elizabeth' AM/AOS  
Grower: Eron Borne**



**Vanda Kulwasee Fragrance  
'Anna Claire' AM/AOS  
Grower: Eron Borne**



**Pda. Mimi Palmer  
'Catahoula Mint', HCC/AOS  
Grower: Eron Borne**



**2021**

**BROS OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** Frank McMains

**VICE-PRES** Bob Lank

**SECRETARY** Patty Granier

**TREASURER** Jim Morrison

**SHOW CHAIR**

**LSU ORCHID  
CONSERVATORY**

[Task Master]

Frank Zachariah

**NEWSLETTER**

**Editor** Frank Zachariah

**Co-Editor** Jim Morrison

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Glenn Gawarecki (thru 2021)

Hal Canning (thru 2022)

Lata Johnson (thru 2023)

**SWROGA REPS**

Lata Johnson

Kathy Conerly

**AOS REP**

Tin-Wein Yu

**ORCHID DIGEST**

Frank Zachariah

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Program** ♦ Lata Johnson

**Publicity** ♦ Kim Kensill

**Membership** ♦

Nancy Morrison

**Baton Rouge Orchid Society**

7925 Director Dr

Baton Rouge, LA 70817-5336

Email: [info@batonrougeorchidsociety.org](mailto:info@batonrougeorchidsociety.org)

Facebook: Baton Rouge Orchid Society  
LSU Orchid Conservatory

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

Instagram: [baton\\_rouge\\_orchid\\_society](https://www.instagram.com/baton_rouge_orchid_society)

