

# BROS News

<https://bros.wildapricot.org>

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



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## President's Message

It still feels like summer but plants and their admirers are starting to prepare for fall.

A big thank you to Jeanette Foster for enthusiastically volunteering to serve as the Hospitality Chair! Jeanette and her hospitality assistants make our meetings unique and delicious. We are fortunate!

New Board Members need to be recommended and elected for 2023. Several board members wish to continue on in their previous position, but a healthy democracy is the heart of any rare plant appreciation organization, so raise your hand if you'd like to become more active with the BROS. Run for office!

A Nominating Committee will be formed at the August meeting to recommend candidates for office and encourage the less-enthusiastic. Nominations for officers from the floor should come at the September meeting (before is okay too). The report of the Nominating Committee will be delivered at the September Meeting. Voting for offices will take place at the October meeting.

Our By-Laws are currently under review by a small committee; our recommended changes will be presented to the members soon. Members with thoughts related to the By-Laws in particular should speak to Lata Laxman, Pat Canning, Jim Morrison or Frank McMains.

Frank Zachariah had a great turn out for the 1st Saturday Work Day at the Conservatory. The Conservatory will be a special place this Fall. Please make a point of visiting to appreciate it and volunteer if you can.

### Proposed BROS Board Meeting Dates 2022-2023

(2nd Wednesday of the Month) Meetings at 7PM

10/12/23 Q4 2022 Board Meeting

1/11/23 Q1 2023 Board Meeting

4/12/23 Q2 2023 Board Meeting

7/12/23 Q3 2023 Board Meeting

10/11/23 Q4 2023 Board Meeting

**Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17th, at the Burden Conference center at 7pm. Frank Zachairah will start Wednesday's program off with a repotting demonstration. Next, all members will have a chance to repot a phalaenopsis to bring home during a hands on workshop. Every few months members may be asked to bring back their orchid so that different growing conditions can be compared. Pots and media will be provided.**

# Meeting Minutes & News Bits

## Programming Meetings - All are Welcome!

It is said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so join us Saturday, September 10 at 9:00 at Golden Corral 13606 Millerville, Greens Blvd for not only a nutritional breakfast, but stimulating conversation as Patty & Lata lead us in planning our future programs. All members welcome!

**Help us think of good topics & add your input.**

## BROS GREEN GROWERS' MEETINGS RESUME!

Dr. Gene Berg has agreed to continue this BROS educational tradition for new orchid enthusiasts, but all members are welcome. Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Address is 425 Nelson Drive

## July Meeting Minutes

President Frank McMains open our meeting welcoming members to our post show meeting. He thanked all members for the team effort on the successful show. Nancy Morrison introduced new members, those who joined during the show and those who joined online. Show chairman Jim Morrison gave the total income from the show of almost \$2,000. He presented Kathy Conerly the AOS best exhibit in show award. Lata Johnson was the recipient of the Clyde Howland award and will have her name engraved on the plaque.

The purpose of our meeting was to provide basic growing conditions to new members of the orchids sold most by the vendors at our show. Members highlighted medium, watering, light requirements and fertilizing for dendrobiums, cattleyas, phalaenopsis, and oncidiums. The audience had a chance to get many questions answered and we enjoyed the great audience participation. Gene Berg announced that he and his wife Thelma were hosting the Green Growers meetings again beginning August 10th. Jeanette Foster thanked her kitchen crew for all their help and support during the four day show event. To wrap up the meeting a potting demonstration was given for those that wanted to stay.

**-Patty Granier**

## BROS July Meeting

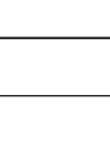


We had a great turnout at our July 20 meeting!

# Membership News

by Nancy Morrison

Below are members joining BROS before and during the July meeting.  
We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members.

	Ashley Viator is from Baton Rouge.
	Derrick Holden is from Baton Rouge and will help with monthly setup and help with the conservatory.
	Jack Holden lives in Baton Rouge and joined in July. He would like to help with our show.
	Wendy Holden-Parker joined with her Father (Jack) and brother (Derrick) and lives in Baton Rouge.
	Melanie Cuellar lives in St. Francisville and is interested in helping with Hospitality and Orchid Shows but main interest is growing beautiful orchis.
	Felicia Borne joined with Rose Naquin at the July Meeting
	Danielle Soileau resides in Baton Rouge.
	Carrie Andrepont lives in Baton Rouge and had been a member of BROS in 2014 and is now re-joining. She is interested in helping BROS with Social Media Updates, Hospitality, Orchid Shows and membership committee.
	Sharron Ayers joined BROS at the July Meeting, and she would like to participate in our Orchid Shows. She lives in St. Francisville.
	Rebecca Wink helped a great deal during the show as a Hospitality specialist with her friend Jennette Foster.
	Diane Knobloch joined BROS during the show and resides in Baton Rouge. She wants to learn and share interest in orchids.

BROS members can login to [batonrougeorchidsociety.com](http://batonrougeorchidsociety.com) website and find more member information. If you do not have a login yet, select "Forgot Password" to create a login. We request that all Members login and update their own profile information as well as upload a photo of yourself. You can also download an app from your smartphone app store called "Wild Apricot for Members". Before using the app, you must have created a login on the website. You can download a list of all members under the members tab on the website.

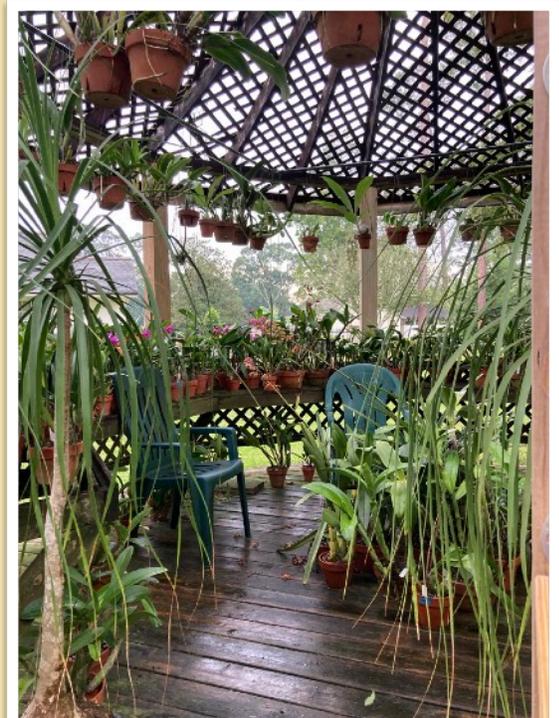
## Green Growers' Meetings Resume!

### Gene and Thelma Berg are once again hosting BROS monthly Green Growers' meetings

This past Wednesday, August 13, both new and veteran BROS members gathered at the home of Gene and Thelma Berg. After touring Gene's gazebo, members got to meet and learn about Gene and how he began growing orchids since the 1950s. Gene talked about his life, his passion for growing orchids, and his work with the Baton Rouge Orchid Society. Members who were present discussed why they joined the Society and their interests in learning about orchids. Gene discussed orchid growing in general with some conversation about the care and culture of some of the more popular orchids such as Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums. The newer members were relieved to hear that even veteran members still lose orchids on occasion, and all members seem eager to attend future meetings which will center around discussions on a multitude of orchid genera. BROS members in attendance were Hal Canning, Bill Geiger, Glenn Gawarecki, Bob Danka, Carolyn Clay, Mal Corcoran, Kathy Lopiparo, Nicole Gagliano, Felicia Borne, and Rose Naquin.



# Green Growers' Meetings Resume!





# Conservatory Notes by Frank Zachariah

## AUGUST CONSERVATORY NOTES

August is the month of challenges and surprises. Many orchids use August to grow vegetatively, and then mature their inflorescences and flower in fall or spring. So we have a sparsity of flowers now but some very impressive new growths. But there are some stunning exceptions -- which make them that much more treasured. This month seems to be devoted to the spotted Cattleyas, Brassavolas, and a smattering of Dendrobiums, Catasetums, Myrmecophilas, and Brassias (Spider Orchids). If you are finding your summer collection a little boring, you may want to add some of these. The Conservatory has completely turned around thanks to many hours of selfless work by our members, some devoted Master Gardeners, and even Boy Scouts. We've increased our collection by 300 plants thanks to anonymous benefactors. They should fill out and be in bloom by next year. We are running an experiment on some plants we purchased in late spring. We'll try to show you the results at the Wed meeting. Our orchids really like our summer heat and rains! If you are struggling with yours, come by the Conservatory on a Fri from 8:30-10:30, do a comparison, and perhaps we can set you on a more successful path.



## Conservatory Photos by Glenn Gawarecki

## August Conservatory Beauties

Photo and Identification by Glenn Gawarecki

We are continuing to use our newsletter to highlight some of our blooming Conservatory orchids monthly by name. This is a great way for members to see and become more familiar with the names and characteristics of some of our beautiful blooms. Here are our latest highlights:



Blc. Empress Worsley 'Roman Holiday'



C. Hybrida x Mcp. tibicinis

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## Christmas Party 2022 Reminder

We haven't had a BROS Christmas party for the last few years, so here is a reminder that we WILL be having a 2022 Christmas party. We have reserved the Burden Center for **December 7th** (Wednesday) from 6:00pm until 9:00 pm. We want this to be a catered event, and are currently looking for reputable caterers. Let us know if you have any suggestions for caterers for this special event!

## LSU Orchid Mounts in Shade Structure

*By Frank Zachariah*

We had a good turnout at the August 1st Saturday -- and spent the morning cleaning and tidying up the mounts in the Shade Structure. (And we also added more orchids!) Thanks to our volunteers, although this was only installed in late spring, we have an interesting and varied collection of over 500 plants. Notice all the different materials in the pictures. There are always a handful in bloom and, as the collection matures, we should increase that number several fold.

The Shade Structure is at right past the Burden Rose Garden and is open to the public. This is a way for folks with limited space to grow lots of orchids vertically. If you are unsure of how well orchids will do outside in our heat and rain, you should go and see for yourself. If you have comments, share them with us at our Wed evening meeting.



# LSU Orchid Mounts in Shade Structure



# AOS AWARDS FROM THE LOUISIANA JUDGING CENTER

## JULY AWARDS



**Phrag. x tetzlaffianum 'Catahoula Falls' HCC 78 Eron Borne**



**C. unregistered (C.Cosmic Angel x C.Katherine Clarkson) AM 81 Al Taylor**



**Phrag. longifolium var. album 'Catahoula Mint' AM 84 Eron Borne**



**C. aclandiae 'Louisiana' HCC 79 Al Taylor**

# Shine On

*By Pat Canning*

At the May meeting, Hal was presented with the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence for his efforts to replace the dilapidated benches in the Conservatory with sturdy metal ones. Not only did he procure donated materials and money; but, he also designed them and was instrumental in building them. While working surreptitiously to provide information and to write a short paragraph about his efforts for the “powers to be,” I couldn’t help but wonder what in the devil was this Diamond award all about and who were the other recipients. I went straight to the proverbial horse’s mouth – the Orchid Digest website. Here is what I found:

Orchid societies honor a special member with a unique glass diamond-shaped paperweight inscribed “Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence!” Members are honored for many reasons, anything warranting worth special mention including long and dedicated service to the society, a special activity, or mentoring as a few examples.

After a few inquiries to the elders of our Society, I found that our past publicity chairperson, Dana Spade, had the information I wanted. I think it is worthy to recognize them again so that their efforts will be remembered and new members can appreciate the depth of experience they can tap into to learn more about all facets of orchiding. (I think I coined the word!)

**2017 – Eugene “Gene” Berg, Ph.D.** At well over the age of 90, Gene is currently the oldest member of the Society, both in age and number of years as a member. He has been growing orchids for over 65 years! He has hybridized a number of beautiful and award-winning plants. He served as president four different times and has been the mentor for many a novice grower. In that vein, he has tirelessly held the Green Growers group that meets in his home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. You’ll find both newbies and veterans alike asking about their sick plants and rejoicing over someone’s first bloom. Gene just started up the group again last week after a Covid hiatus. Be on the lookout for the email reminder that announces time and address.

**2018 - James Jeansonne.** In my mind, James is a grower extraordinaire. There are at least 35 registered hybrids of his crosses and nine of them have won AOS awards. He has shared his knowledge by giving numerous programs to our Society and other orchid societies, as well as teaching Master Gardener classes. James has an artistic flair and has been indispensable in setting up out-of-town show exhibits for over 30 years. Last year, James moved to Reno and donated numerous divisions of his award-winning plants to the Conservatory. Although he is in Reno, Nevada now, some of our members, like Hal, still call upon him for advice regarding a plant problem or a greenhouse problem. I know that BROS still has a special place in his heart.

**2019 - Danna Spayde.** Known as the “Orchid Lady” around Baton Rouge, Dana has led Orchids for Seniors, a monthly study group of the Baton Rouge Recreation Department’s Adult Leisure Program for over 22 years before Covid hit. She also taught a beginner’s orchid class for the LSU Leisure Studies Program and presented orchid lectures to community garden clubs. Dana served as our Newsletter Editor for at least 8 years. She also served as Publicity Chairperson and as a member of the Membership Committee. She was instrumental in acquiring Trader Joe’s unsold plants for the Society’s Orphan Plant Project.

# Shine On

(Continued)

*By Pat Canning*

**2020 - Carolyn Clay.** Carolyn has held every office in our organization and has served on the Board and many committees. She has set up out-of-town show displays, sometimes on her own! (How she managed to do that is beyond my comprehension.) She has taken charge of the Society's annual exhibit at the LSU Spring Horticulture Show, thus helping to spread knowledge about orchids and recruit new members for the Society. She also participates avidly in many other orchid events in the community. Carolyn stands ready to lend advice to new growers by sharing her knowledge about orchids as well as greenhouses. And yes – she built her own greenhouse!

**2021 - James Morrison.** Jim is one of those guys who is just as comfortable at the podium presenting a program as he is at sitting at his computer designing the Society's website. The orchid bug bit Jim when he was required to do a presentation for the Master Gardener's program. He chose orchids. The hook was set and he's been an avid grower ever since. Jim has served as Treasurer for three terms. Aside from creating our website, he leaned on his I.T. skills to get us up and meeting via ZOOM during the pandemic. He also moderated a beginner's Culture Club during that time. He created a comprehensive computer program for Orchid Shows to make AOS judging easier, to automatically print out show labels, and to keep track of show awards. If you ever see him driving his red corvette, be sure to ask him to pop the hood. There's a beautiful orchid painted on the underside!

**2022 – Dr. Harold Canning.** You already know all about Hal. He saw a need and took care of it.

So, there you have it – the history that I found regarding the Diamond Awards -what it is and who has been awarded. I am sure that you will agree that each one of the above exemplifies the definition of Diamond Award of Excellence. All of those folks still shine as they continue to do what they do. But . . . look around at the next meeting. The room is filled with diamonds that just don't have the paperweight to prove it. Our society is so fortunate to have experienced growers who are willing to help novice growers; while there are others who help the Society run smoothly. They shine just as brightly as the awarded six. There are also diamonds in the rough lurking around. Are you one of them? Is it time for you to step up to contribute whatever talent you have to move the Society forward? In a few days, our President will call upon some of you to serve on the nominating committee which will identify members to run for officers and board members for next year. If asked to be on the committee, give it serious consideration. If asked to serve in a leadership role or chair a committee, give it double serious consideration. Are you ready to expand your comfort zone? Are you ready to shine?

# ABOUT OUR SOCIETY



## 2022 BROS OFFICERS

**President** - Frank McMains  
**Vice Pres.** - Glenn Gawarecki  
**Secretary** - Patty Granier  
**Treasurer** - Pat Canning  
**Show Chair** - Jim Morrison

**LSU Orchid Conservatory**  
Frank Zachariah

**Newsletter Editor**  
Kathy Lopiparo  
**Co-Editor** - Jim Morrison

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Hal Canning** (through 2022)  
**Lata Johnson** (through 2023)  
**Frank Zacariah** (through 2024)

## SWROGA REPS

Lata Johnson  
Kathy Conerly

## AOS REP

Jim Morrison

## ORCHID DIGEST

Frank Zachariah

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Program** - Patty Granier and  
Lata Johnson

**Publicity**-Kim Kensill

**Membership**-Nancy Morrison

**Baton Rouge Orchid Society**  
**7925 Director Dr Baton Rouge, LA**  
**70817-5336**

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Web: <https://bros.wildapricot.org>

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

**Thank you to Marie William! - She  
gave out several foster orchids to  
residents at the Heritage Manor  
Nursing Home!**

