JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

Cover Worthy!

Stuart Rubin

Key Lime Stars

NOS Events

Next Monthly Meeting
Thursday June 1, 2023
Moorings Presbyterian Church
Baker Gym
Orchid Doctor starts at 6:30 p.m.
Gary Murza
"Mounting Orchids"

Plant Registration ENDS at 6:55 p.m.
Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker – **T.J. Hartung**
Presenting **"***Mexican Orchid"*

See Biography on page 3

Next Board of Directors Meeting and Show Committee Meeting
Date: June 20, 2023 6:30 p.m.
See page 3 for details
All Members are Welcome to Attend

President: Richard Davenport
davenport.richardalan@gmail.com

Submit articles for the Newsletter by the 15th of each month to: NOSNews@Naplesorchidsociety.org

Newsletter Editors*: Kris Morton, Marilyn Moser, Marie Harris and Bob Castonguay*

The Naples Orchid Society is a non-profit organization, devoted to the promotion of, interest in, and the appreciation of orchids and the preservation of our native orchids. It is also our aim to disseminate information pertaining to their culture and hybridization.

NAPLES ORCHID SOCIETY P.O. Box 7998 Naples FL 34101
www.NaplesOrchidSociety.org

President's Letter

June 2023

Richard Davenport
President, Naples Orchid Society, Inc.
Davenport.richardalan@gmail.com

Greetings to all Orchid Lovers!

The annual dry season in Southwest Florida is nearing its end. June usually starts with teasing, little scattered showers and ends with monsoon-like afternoon thunderstorms. The dry heat and relatively low humidity of April and May brought us many thrips. We responded by spraying every 7 to 10 days in order to break the egg-nymph-adult life cycle.

Be prepared to change your spraying routine to combat fungi and bacterial black rot during the wet season using systemic sprays for maximum effect. Remember, fans are your friends. Good air circulation is essential for drying plants overnight.

Repotting? Be careful with your attention to cleanliness in the potting area. Clean your potting table after each use. Do not use the same scissors, knives, or razors on more than one plant. Have multiple clean tools ready to go or torch your favorite pair of scissors or knife before re-using.

It is good practice to clean your plants before repotting. Cut off dead roots, pseudo bulbs, leaves and brown flower spikes. Make a systemic fungicide paste to a catsup or mayonnaise consistency. Apply to all fresh cuts, using a fresh cotton swab for each plant. In addition, do not use the cotton swab you just used to get more fungicide paste. Every time you dip, get a fresh swab. If you mess up and "double dip", throw that small batch away and mix a new one. Spray the remaining roots and rhizomes liberally with hydrogen peroxide. If you have time, let the plant completely dry out overnight before completing repotting the next morning. Moreover, do not water right away. Especially with larger plants in mixed media, it is better to let the plant dry completely, then water lightly for a couple of weeks before resuming normal watering. This focus on repotting procedures is done in an effort to remind us what we should do to avoid fungus and bacterial rot transfer. The devil is truly in the details!

Many NOS members took a long drive to Miami/Homestead for the Redlands Orchid Festival, 5-19 to 5-21. With 70 vendors, many from Central and South America, there were many opportunities to acquire new plants for our growing collections. Remember to isolate new purchases, inspect for insects and infections, spray with a combination cocktail (Banrot & Orthene) or Bayer Bio Advanced and make sure all is well before putting the newbies in with your old friends. Use leaf color to "guesstimate" light levels if you forgot to quiz the vendor. Better to start a little dark and slowly move into more light over a few weeks than getting sunburned leaves…

Richard Davenport
President

In-Person Board of Directors Meeting for June 2023

Date: Tuesday June 20, 2023

All Current Members are Welcome

Time: 6:30 pm
Forest Glen Golf and Country Club
3855 Forest Glen Blvd
Naples, FL 34114 (at the Clubhouse)

This meeting will be held at Forest Glen Golf and Country Club and requires gate notification.
If you are interested in attending this meeting, please call Rae Jean Walker 815-791-2140 and leave a message.

JUNE SPEAKER: T.J. Hartung

T.J. is a retired computer systems specialist and systems analyst. He designed computers and wrote computer software to manage hotels. His love for orchids began when he lived in Southern California and started growing Cymbidiums in his yard. For quite a few years, every secretary in the company where he worked received, anonymously, a Cymbidium blossom on Valentine's Day.

Since retiring to Mexico, he has been rescuing orchids from downed trees and broken limbs before they are eaten by animals or washed down the streams and rivers into the sea. Much of what he knows about orchids he has learned in the laboratory of the great outdoors. The rest comes from online research and numerous books on the subject.

He is on the board of directors of the Vallarta Botanical Garden. In recent years he has given talks to orchids societies in the US, Canada, England and Scotland. He became a Mexican citizen about 16 years ago.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Moser, AOS Representative

The meeting was held in the Baker Gym at Moorings Presbyterian Church. There were 55 attendees and all enjoyed donated snacks.

- Rae Jean Walker sold raffle tickets and $233.00 was collected.
- Richard Davenport was the Orchid Doctor and discussed Catasetum culture.
- President Richard Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Emergency exits were reviewed. Richard discussed the ongoing discussions with the Botanical Garden concerning future Show dates.
- David Orr reported on NOS finances.
- Marie Harris was introduced as New Membership Chair and she provided an updated Membership report of 151 paid members.
- Stu Rubin, First Vice President, introduced Mac Rivenbark from Mac's Orchids and our speaker Mac discussed "Successful Orchid Growing in South Florida," emphasizing light levels and watering practices.
- Raffle Tickets were drawn.
- Ribbon Awards were presented.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Please volunteer to help out at our monthly NOS meetings. We need help with set up & take down. Please contact Richard Davenport, Stu Rubin or Jim Rawson if you would like to participate.

May 2023 MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees: 55
Plant Raffle: $233
Plants entered: 81 – 34 voted

Many Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to our NOS volunteers at the May monthly meeting: **Set Up**: Stu Rubin, Richard Davenport & Jim Rawson, **Greeter**: Marie Harris & Deb Goldman, **Orchid Doctor** - Richard Davenport, **Raffle**: Rae Jean Walker, **Hospitality**: Corrie vanCaulil, **Plant table**: Carolyn Booker & Sue Roehl, **Take down**: Richard Davenport, Stu Rubin, Jim Rawson, Carolyn Booker, Dave Orr, Sue Roehl & Kenny Davis

ORCHID SHOW and SALES 2024

"Time to start thinking about a THEME for next year's Orchid Show". During our July 6th monthly member meeting, we will be asking you to nominate a THEME for 2024's show. As always, the best theme will win a prize. Thank you – Stu Rubin and Jim Rawson – NOS Orchid Show Coordinators

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT

Submitted and presented by Marie Harris Membership Chair

2023 Members: 162

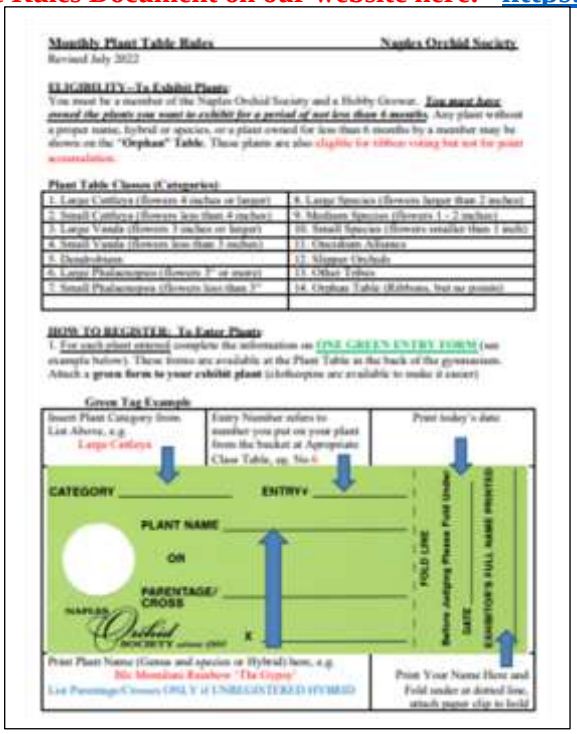
You may pay by **check** mailed to Naples Orchid Society, PO Box 7998, Naples, FL 34101,
or by **credit card** at https://naplesorchidsociety.org/join-us/
NEW RATES for 2023: Single membership $40, Joint membership $50
Add $10.00 for a magnetic engraved nametag
Question about Membership?
Email **Membership@Naplesorchidsociety.org**

CARE AND CONDOLENCE

Care card was sent to Stu Rubin.

NOS Monthly Meeting Plant competition Rules and Instructions

See the Rules Document on our website here: **https://naplesorchidsociety.org/monthly-meetings/**



Monthly Plant Table Rules — Naples Orchid Society
Revised July 2022

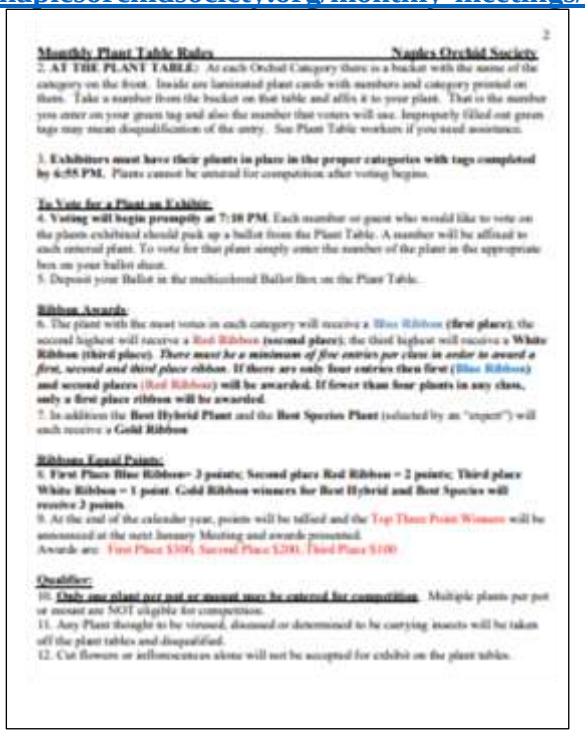
ELIGIBILITY - To Exhibit Plants
You must be a member of the Naples Orchid Society and a Hobby Grower. You must have owned the plants you want to exhibit for a period of not less than 6 months. Any plant without a proper name, hybrid or species, or a plant owned for less than 6 months by a member may be shown on the "Orphan" Table. These plants are also eligible for ribbon voting but not for point accumulation.

Plant Table Classes (Categories):

1. Large Cattleya (flowers 4 inches or larger)	8. Large Species (flowers larger than 2 inches)
2. Small Cattleya (flowers less than 4 inches)	9. Medium Species (flowers 1 - 2 inches)
3. Large Vanda (flowers 3 inches or larger)	10. Small Species (flowers smaller than 1 inch)
4. Small Vanda (flowers less than 3 inches)	11. Oncidium Alliance
5. Dendrobium	12. Slipper Orchids
6. Large Phalaenopsis (flowers 3" or more)	13. Other Tribes
7. Small Phalaenopsis (flowers less than 3")	14. Orphan Table (Ribbons, but no points)

HOW TO REGISTER: To Enter Plants
1. For each plant entered complete the information on ONE GREEN ENTRY FORM (see example below). These forms are available at the Plant Table at the back of the gymnasium. Attach a green form to your exhibit plant (clothespins are available to make it easier)

Green Tag Example



Monthly Plant Table Rules — Naples Orchid Society

2. AT THE PLANT TABLE: At each Orchid Category there is a bucket with the name of the category on the front. Inside are laminated plant cards with numbers and category printed on them. Take a number from the bucket on that table and affix it to your plant. That is the number you enter on your green tag and also the number that voters will use. Improperly filled out green tags may mean disqualification of the entry. See Plant Table workers if you need assistance.

3. **Exhibitors must have their plants in place in the proper categories with tags completed by 6:55 PM.** Plants cannot be entered for competition after voting begins.

To Vote for a Plant on Exhibit:
4. **Voting will begin promptly at 7:10 PM.** Each member or guest who would like to vote on the plants exhibited should pick up a ballot from the Plant Table. A number will be affixed to each entered plant. To vote for that plant simply enter the number of the plant in the appropriate box on your ballot sheet.
5. Deposit your Ballot in the multicolored Ballot Box on the Plant Table.

Ribbon Awards:
6. The plant with the most votes in each category will receive a Blue Ribbon **(first place)**; the second highest will receive a Red Ribbon **(second place)**; the third highest will receive a **White Ribbon (third place).** ***There must be a minimum of five entries per class in order to award a first, second and third place ribbon.*** **If there are only four entries then first (Blue Ribbon) and second places (Red Ribbon) will be awarded. If fewer than four plants in any class, only a first place ribbon will be awarded.**
7. In addition the **Best Hybrid Plant** and the **Best Species Plant** (selected by an "expert") will each receive a **Gold Ribbon**

Ribbons Equal Points:
8. **First Place Blue Ribbon= 3 points; Second place Red Ribbon = 2 points; Third place White Ribbon = 1 point. Gold Ribbon winners for Best Hybrid and Best Species will receive 3 points**
9. At the end of the calendar year, points will be tallied and the Top Three Point Winners will be announced at the next January Meeting and awards presented.
Awards are: First Place $300; Second Place $200; Third Place $100

Qualifier:
10. Only one plant per pot or mount may be entered for competition. Multiple plants per pot or mount are NOT eligible for competition.
11. Any Plant thought to be virused, diseased or determined to be carrying insects will be taken off the plant tables and disqualified.
12. Cut flowers or inflorescences alone will not be accepted for exhibit on the plant tables.

Snapshots from our May 2023 Meeting

Raffle Ticket Winner Pick

Richard Davenport *Orchid Doctor* Discussion

One-on One with Mac Rivenbark

May Presentor – Mac Rivenbark Discussing
"Successful Orchid Growing in South Florida!"
Photo by: Marilyn Moser

Mac providing Orchid growing tips

Orchid Conservation Alliance

Conserving Orchids by Conserving Orchid Habitat

The OCA conserves orchids by funding habitat preservation. Since inception in 2005 we have helped with the purchase of over 3000 acres of orchid habitat, protecting hundreds of orchid species in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia. Many species of rare birds, trees, frogs, mammals also find refuge in these reserves.

Dracula gigas (L), *D. trigonopetala* (R)
Dracula Reserve, Ecuador

Dracula lemurella (L), *Lepanthes escifera* (R)
La Selva de Ventanas Reserve, Colombia

We hope you will join us in promoting this important work. We invite you to become a member of the OCA, to make a donation, to take a trip with us to see Orchids in the Wild®, and to purchase merchandise through our website. Since we have no paid staff, all proceeds support orchid conservation. The OCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

For more information: www.orchidconservationalliance.org

Jade Orchids of Collier, Inc.
285 Morgan Road
Naples, FL 34114
Tuesday to Saturday **Owners:**
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM **Dave & Judy White**

Email: JadeOrchids@embarqmail.com
Offering 10% discount on plants for NOS members.

Specializing in Orchids that
'THRIVES on NEGLECT'
6800 Appaloosa Trail,
Southwest Ranches FL 33330
Tuesday -Sunday 9:00 -6:00
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT before arriving
www.asianorchidspecies.com

ASIAN ORCHID SOURCE, INC.

Mac W. Rivenbark
Specializing Asian Orchids/Owner
(954) 410 -8580
(754) 308-9026
Please call/text before arriving

YOUR AOS REP
Marilyn Moser
Mm3purple@aol.com

AOS WEBINARS

June 08, 2023: 8:30 pm EDT, Thursday. Topic: Greenhouse Chat, Orchid Q & A. Send in your photos & questions by June 06. Presenter: Ron McHatton, Chief Education & Science Officer.

June 15, 2023: 8:30 pm EDT, Thursday. Topic: "Dendrobiums of New Guinea," Colorful clusters for your collection. Presenter: Carol Klonowski, AOS Editorial Board Member & AOS judge.

RECORDED WEBINARS. Hobbyists, expert growers, AOS judges, conservationists and more. Check out the timeless collection of recoded webinars on the AOS website:
http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx

We digitize the webinars & they are available to view at your leisure. GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.
Topics: Species & Hybrids, Pests & Diseases, Culture, Judging, Greenhouse Chats & More.

DID YOU KNOW

From May 2023 AOS Orchids Magazine, pg 363. See pgs. 364-365 for additional beneficial orchid harvesting.
Examples of heavily harvested wild orchids & use:

***Dactylorhiza Orhis, Anacamptis* & others: Food (sale)**

Some *Disa, Habenaria & Satyrium:* Food (chikanda)

A great resource for orchid information is the St. Augustine Orchid Society's website:
https://staugorchidsociety.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3-4, 2023: Central Florida Orchid Society's "Rainbow of Orchids," Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL; Contact: Jerry Steele, 352-300-6023; orchidguy.steele@gmail.com.

SELECTED BOTANICAL TERMS

From "Orchids" Magazine, May 2023

ramicaul – thin stem with nodes & internodes & a single leaf
cuneate – wedge-shaped
filiform - threadlike
reniform – kidney-shaped

MORE ABOUT ORCHIDS

Commonly Asked Questions

From Jack Kramer's 100 Orchids for Florida

Some of the back bulbs on my cattleyas turn brown & die. Am I doing something wrong?
Probably not. It is common for old back bulbs to die off after several years.

Orchidist's Word of the Month

From the May AOS Orchid-gram

decussate (dee-KUSS-ayt):

Opposite leaves in four rows up and down the stem, alternating in pairs at right angles.

TASKS FOR JUNE

From Florida Orchid Growing Month by Month by Martin Motes, PhD

- Careful watering this month often means no watering at all. Arise early to enjoy the cool & water only when truly necessary.
- Space plants amply. Good air circulation is essential across the coming months.
- Re-pot Phals & re-set Vandas. Make sure that plants are firmly set in their new abodes.
- Begin or continue a disease prevention program with the prophylactic application of thiophanate methyl (Cleary's 3336) & Aliette or Banrot.
- Clean up growing area & plants. Remove dead leaves from plants & the ground. Pull weeds.
- Prune trees & shrubs to increase light & air circulation.
- Apply snail bait lightly early in the month & again lightly mid-month.
- Set air conditioning thermostat at 80 degrees & enjoy living in the tropics.

SELECTED BOTANICAL TERMS

From "Orchids" Magazine, April 2023

coriaceous – leathery
infundibular – funnel-shaped
ostia – opening
spiculate – having a small or short spike

MORE ABOUT ORCHIDS

Commonly Asked Questions

From Jack Kramer's 100 Orchids for Florida

Some of the buds on my orchid plants shrivel and drop. What am I doing wrong?

It depends on what type orchid you are growing, but bud drop is usually caused by sudden fluctuation in temperature. Toxic salts in the potting medium can be another cause, and not enough humidity in the air still another reason.

PROGRESS OF THE SEASON

(From Martin Motes May 2023 Monthly Newsletter

An incredibly wet April has in effect ushered in the beginning of the rainy season a few weeks early. This means that disease pressure may well mount more quickly than usual. We need to take advantage of the extremely low humidity that the super fronts brought in their aftermath to be sure to dry our plants out completely and thoroughly before applying additional water.

We also commence the preventive maintenance program set forth in *Florida Orchid Growing* as soon as possible.
For those whose lawn flooded, extra caution is required as several pathogens, which affect orchids, also affect St. Augustine grass. Most deadly and dangerous of these is Southern Blight, who's characteristic pale pustules are pictured in *Fla. Orchid Growing* and its control described.

While all orchids grown outside are vulnerable to the pathogens which blossom after heavy rain, vandas in bright airy places also have benefited from the extra rain, which washed excess fertilizer salts from their roots and plumped them out. They are now primed for additional application of liquid fertilizer. Peters XCell 15-5-15 with Cal/Mg is highly recommended. High temperatures and extremely low humidity behooves us to mist our vandas in the afternoon. Usually around 4:00 PM on days when rain is not in the offing and skies are clear.

Thrips, too, are enjoying the warm dry weather, which is starting the month. They are ready to attack both new root tips and emergent flower spikes, which have been stimulated by the wide swings of day to night temperatures. Best practices for controlling *Thrips* are detailed in *Fla. Vanda Growing*.
Martin Motes

Sign up for Martin Motes Newsletter here:
https://www.motesorchids.com/

THRIPS

By Susan Jones *(from AOS.org)*

Many species of thrips feed on orchids; some of the most common include western flower thrips (Frankliniella occidentalis), Cuban laurel thrips (Gynaikothrips ficorum), greenhouse thrips (Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis) and flower thrips (Frankliniella bispinosa).

Thrips are a common problem on vandaceous plants, dendrobiums and to a lesser extent, cattleyas and phalaenopsis. Because they are quite small (about 1/16 to 3/8 inch [1 to 5 mm] long), they are difficult to see with the naked eye. Much more easily detected is the damage to plants, deformed foliage and injured floral tissues caused by their feeding. They most often attack buds and new growths with their rasping mouthparts, sucking the plant sap.

The nature of the thrips life cycle places their eggs and pupal stages fairly well out of the reach of most pesticides. Therefore, multiple applications of the chosen control method or pesticide at weekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of these pests.

As with many unwanted insects, monthly rotation of control measures is also recommended, especially when using chemical pesticides. Alternating between at least two different chemicals helps to avoid raising resistance to control measures in the insect pest.

Insecticides such as insecticidal soap, malathion and acephate (Orthene) are all recommended for use on thrips, and are listed as safe for use on orchids as well.

If your growing area is enclosed and is not part of your living space, such as a greenhouse, biological control with a predatory mite is an option. The female Amblyseius cucumeris deposits eggs in thrips. When the young hatch, they parasitize their hosts, killing them.

The use of insecticides is not compatible with employing predatory mites for control, as the insecticides are harmful to the mites as well as the thrips. As always, adhere strictly to the manufacturer’s instructions for safe application and use of chemical pesticides.

As with any spray-on pest control measure, any orchid plants infested with thrips should be managed to allow easy and thorough pesticide application. Arrange the plants in the growing area so that they have adequate space for air circulation and ease of spraying, and be sure to cover all plant surfaces, such as those between and on the undersides of leaves, to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment.

All reuse must contain the following:
Reprinted from the SEPTEMBER 2003 issue of *Orchids* -- The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society.
Copyright American Orchid Society -- www.aos.org
All about Orchids

What's Blooming in My Collection?

Dendrobium Caesar's Red Big Lip
Karen Davenport

Lc. Fire Dance 'Blanche'
Karen Davenport

Myc. Rio's Little Treasure
Karen Davenport

Dendrobium Anucha Gold
Karen Davenport

Alcra Pacific Nova 'Okika'
Stuart Rubin

Ansellia Africana
Karen Davenport

Vanda Motes Burning Sands
Karen Davenport

Dendrobium Chet's Choice
Karen Davenport

Nodosa x small world
Stuart Rubin

Naples Orchid Society
Monthly Plant Table Results

May 4, 2023

Submitted by Dick Pippen

Large Cattleyas
First Place: *Cattleya* Sea Breeze 'Blue
Owner: Jim Longwell

Small Cattleyas
First Place: *Encyclia* Nursery Rhyme
Owner: Jim Longwell
Second Place: *Myrmecocattleya* Alice
Owner: Jim Rawson
Third Place: *Jackfowliara* Apple Blossom
Owner: Karen Davenport

Large Vandas
First Place: V. Junior Scott
Owner: Jim Longwell
Second Place: Renanthera Bangkok Beauty
Owner: John Ervin

Small Vandas
First Place: *V*. Nopporn Gold
Owner: Karen Davenport
Second Place: *V*. Edwin Hausermann
Owner: Rae Jean Walker
Third Place: *V. lamellata* x *V. brunnea* x *V*. Mimi Palmer
Owner: Elaine Gates

Dendrobiums
First Place: *Den*. Jacqulyn Thomas
Owner: Nancy Castonguay
Second Place: *Den*. Pixie Princess
Owner: John Winkler
Third Place: *Den*. Gatton Sun Ray
Owner: Joylett Davis

Small Phalaenopsis
First Place: *Phal*. Pylo' Slurpee
Owner: David Orr
Second Place: *Phal*. Blue Angel
Owner: John Ervin
Third Place: *Phal*. Chia E Yenlin
Owner: Rae Jean Walker

Large Species
First Place: *Cattleya forbesii*
Owner: Karen Davenport
Third Place: *Cattleya mossiae v. reichiana semi alba*
Owner: Jim Longwell

Medium Species
First Place: *Den. amabile*
Owner: David Orr
Second Place: *Leptodes bicolor*
Owner: Rae Jean Walker
Third Place: *insignis* 'Robert Barley
Owner: John Ervin

Small Species
First Place: *Tetramirca canaliculata*
Owner: Karen Davenport

Oncidium Alliance
First Place: *Bcsdm*. Gilded Urchin
Owner: Mary Southall
Second Place: *Oncidium* Sharry Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate'
Owner: Mary Southall
Second Place: *Psychopsis* Mendenhall 'Hildos'
Owner: Mary Southall
Third Place: *Oncda*. Hula Halua 'Volcano Splendor'
Owner: Stuart Rubin

Slipper Orchids
First Place: *Paph*. Denenatii 'White' x *Paph*. Delerati Dunkel
Owner: Barbara Holdsworth

Other Tribes
First Place: *Cymbidium* Geno's Gem
Owner: Rae Jean Walker

Orphan Table
First Place: *Trichoglottis*
Owner: John Ervin

Best Species Award
Plant Name: *Tetramira canaliculata*
Owner: Karen Davenport

Best Hybrid Award
Plant Name: *Lc*. Pixie Charm
Owner: Jim Longwell

Green Tag Winner:
Plant Name: Dancing Lady
Winner: David Orr

Gold Ribbon Winners May 4, 2023

Photos this page by Susan Roehl, NOS Webmaster

SMALL CATTLEYAS
Plant Name: *Tetramira canaliculata*
Owner: Karen Davenport

BEST HYBRID AWARD
Plant Name: *Lc.* Pixie Charm
Owner: Jim Longwell

Blue Ribbon Winners May 4, 2023

Photos this page by Marilyn Moser, AOS Representative

SMALL PHALAENOPSIS
Plant Name: *Phal*. Purple Rain
Owner: Rae Jean Walker

DENDROBIUMS
Plant Name: *Den*. Jacqulyn Thomas
Owner: Nancy Castonguay

LARGE CATTLEYAS
Plant Name: *Cattleya* Sea Breeze Blue
Owner: Jim Longwell

LARGE PHALEONOPSIS
Plant Name: *Phal*. Ms. Angelina Jolie
Owner: Carrie Miller

SMALL CATTLEYAS
Plant Name: *Encyclia* Nursery Rhyme
Owner: Jim Longwell

SMALL VANDA
Plant Name: *V*. Nopporn Gold
Owner: Karen Davenport

LARGE SPECIES
Plant Name: *Cattleya forbesii*
Owner: Karen Davenport

LARGE VANDA
Plant Name: V. Junior Scott
Owner: Jim Longwell

MEDIUM SPECIES
Plant Name: *Den. amabile*
Owner: David Orr

ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE
Plant Name: *Bcsdm*. Gilded Urchin
Owner: Mary Southall

OTHER TRIBES
Plant Name: *Cymbidium* Geno's Gem
Owner: Rae Jean Walker

ORPHAN TABLE
Plant Name: *Trichoglottis*
Owner: John Ervin

SMALL SPECIES
Plant Name: *Tetramicra canaliculata*
Owner: Karen Davenport

An Orchid Vignette—Volkertara—Take Center Stage

Contributed by Dick Pippen

Cattleya is a natural genus, which contains species that descended from a common ancestor. Currently there are about 75 recognized species of *Cattleya*. *Brassavola*, *Rhynchostylis* and *Vanda* (among many others) are also natural occurring genera (plural of genus). If one crosses (crossbreeds) two species of *Cattleya,* one still gets a *Cattleya* (e.g. C. *aclandiae x C. loddigesii = C. Brabantiae*). Orchids are most unusual, one might say unique in the plant world, in that it is possible to cross breed species or hybrids in two or more genera (e.g. *Brassavola nodosa* x *Cattleya mendelii = Brassocattleya Mendelosa*). Now *Brassocattleya* is not a natural genus but a "people made" genus. We have a special term for these "people made genera," they are called **nothogenera** (singular—**nothogenus**). *Brassocattleya* is easy because it is just the combination of two represented genera. It is even possible to combine species or hybrids of three genera, e.g. *Brassavola + Cattleya +Laelia* (*Brassolaeliocattleya—Brassocattleya* Richard Mueller x *Laelia rubescens = Blc*. Petite Stars). Now what is even more interesting is that it is possible to combine members of four or more genera to produce a viable hybrid! However, coming up with a genus name that is not to cumbersome is difficult with four or more genera involved, so "the powers that be" have decided that the best way to handle this is to give these *nothogenera* names of people who have had an impact "in the orchid world" or after the name of a significant location. They take the name of the person and add "*ara*" to it, for instance *Volkertara*.

That is really a long-winded way to get to the point of this paper and that is to talk about a couple of hybrids in the genus *Volkertara*. *Volkertara* is probably named after George Volkert, a "Brit" who in the mid 1950s was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Committee on Orchid Names (they are the ones responsible for these nothogeneric names). *Volkertara* is a complex genus composed of members of four orchid genera: *Broughtonia+ Cattleya +Guarianthe+ Rhyncholaelia*

I really liked this photo of my plant of *Volkertara* Samantha Marko and I wanted to share it with you along with some information you probably did not want to know about. *Vkt*. Samantha Marko is a cross between *Rhyncattleanthe* Gold Nuggett and *Guaritonia* Why Not. Samantha started out her life in another nothogenus, *Otaara*, but due to some name changes at the generic level (I will not bore you with the details), it is now a *Volkertara*. Regardless—it is a very pretty flower. It is easy to see the Why Not influence in the flowers. I received my plant from Ralph Brand, a member of NOS, and excellent orchid grower, in 2012 at our annual Orchid Show. At that time, it was an unregistered cross but in 2013 it was named and registered by Ng Joo Hiong of Singapore as *Vkt*. Samantha Marko. This hybrid only blooms once a year, in March or April, but it has bloomed

faithfully for me every year since I received it. This hybrid has not received any awards, nor been used as a parent in any crosses. To get an award, a hybrid has to be "better that either parent" and both of these parents are well known and well awarded.

Another delightful *Volkertara* that shares a parent in common with Samantha Marko is *Volkertara* Sierra Fires (photo right). This is a cross between *Grt*. Why Not and *Rlc*. Sunday. It was created by our friend Alan Koch of Gold Country Orchids in California and registered by him in 2004. This hybrid also started out life as an *Otaara* but for the same reasons as Samantha, was transferred to *Volkertara*. It has received one AOS award but has not been used as a parent in any crosses. I received my plant from Jade Orchids; here in Naples, and unlike its "cousin," Samantha, it usually blooms twice a year, around May and again in November.

In addition, to round out our discussion of *Volkertara* the third plant I want to talk about is *Volkertara* Alexander Bryan (photo left). This hybrid is a cross between *Rth*. Cherry Suisse X *Gct*. Michael Sampson. It was created by Phillip Hamilton, Bredren Orchids, Apopka, FL, and registered by him in 2017. I understand from personal conversation that the hybrid is named after their grandson. You will recall that Bredren Orchids is one of our "regulars" at our annual Orchid Show. The hybrid has received an AOS award in 2021 but has not yet become a parent.

At present, there are 132 members of the genus *Volkertara*, and we have talked about only three, but I think they are nice plants to consider, as maybe several others from this interesting nothogenus.