JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

Cover Worthy!

Myc. Rio's Little Treasure
Karen Davenport

NOS Events

Next Monthly Meeting
Thursday June 6, 2024
Moorings Presbyterian Church
Moss Hall
Orchid Doctor starts at 6:30 p.m.
Elaine Gates, NOS member and Orchid Grower Extraordinaire. Topic - "How to Grow Miniature Orchids". Q & A to follow.

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

Featured Speaker ***– Thanh Nguyen – Owner/Operator of Springwater Orchids***
Presenting: "Everything about Growing Orchids"

See Write-up on Page 6

Next Board of Directors Meeting
Date: June 11, 2024 6:30 p.m.
See page 5 for details
All Current Members are Welcome to Attend

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

David Andrus, Chris Emerine, John Fauth, Diane Mieras and Kate Rimkus

Contact Marie Harris, Membership Chair with any membership questions you have. mharris@naplesproperties.com, 239-877-1717

President: Richard Davenport
davenport.richardalan@gmail.com

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

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

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

ALSO PLEASE CHECKOUT OUR NAPLES ORCHID SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE

President's Letter

June 2024

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

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

What is white, vaporous, and seems to float in the air? No, we have not gone off the deep end in search of the supernatural or mystic. We are an orchid society, after all. Our headline today refers quite properly to *Dendrophylax lindenii,* the famous "Ghost Orchid". The orchid's historical range includes the Bahama Islands, Cuba and extreme South Florida. The Ghost Orchid, along with other endemic orchids remaining in the wilds of South Florida are threatened by poachers, fire, and loss of habitat, primarily due to development (dredge and fill, Army Corps flood control and water diversion activities, road, residential, and business uses), but orchids are also at risk due to climate change and ocean level rises.

The Ghost Orchid has come to be a symbol or poster child representing the need to protect native orchids and their habitat. It has been the focus of thirteen years of NOS support of the Illinois College orchid research and conservation efforts. At our July member's meeting, we will receive a "sneak preview" of the summary finding results of the original research before publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. We will also hear and see some of the international orchid conservation efforts as displayed at the Chelsea Flower Show in London sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society and Kew Gardens. This year's Chelsea Show featured conservation activities in the United Kingdom, India and the United States.

Have you ever seen a Ghost Orchid? A species, they bloom only once a year, typically in June and July. See Ghost Orchid photos on left. The Audubon Society's Sanctuary boardwalk is a great place to see one. When in bloom, the rangers provide a high-power telescope on a tripod to help visitors see the flowers, as they are a good 40-50 feet in the air and about 60 feet from the elevated walk. There are a number of other orchid species in the Corkscrew Sanctuary, but no others are so spectacular. You may be able to see one more closely, as the Naples Botanical Garden has promised one for our meeting if it is in bloom then. Keep your fingers crossed.

Reserve the date of 7-11-24 on your calendar. The date was pushed back from our normal first Thursday to the second Thursday in July due to the 4th of July Holiday. You do not want to miss this meeting!

See you there!

Richard Davenport
President

Feds agree to start process that could establish ghost orchid habitat in south Florida

Chad Gillis, Fort Myers News-Press

Fri, May 24, 2024 at 5:15 AM EDT·4 min read

A recent agreement between several environmental groups and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in a win for groups who are seeking federal protections for the rare ghost orchid, they say.

It ends a lawsuit filed against the agency for failure to make a decision on whether the ghost orchid should be added to the Endangered Species List and at what level — threatened or endangered.

The seemingly magical ghost orchid (*Dendrophylax lindenii*), of which only about 1,500 are thought to still live in the wilds of the Sunshine State, is found in extreme south Florida, in places like Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, the Big Cypress National Preserve and Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park — all in Collier County.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered into a legal agreement last week with the environmental groups, who sued the agency for not providing habitat protections for the rare sub-tropical plant.

"Per the settlement agreement, the Service has committed that on or before June 1, 2025, we shall submit to the Office of the Federal Register a 12-month finding as to whether listing the ghost orchid as a threatened or endangered species is not warranted; warranted; or warranted but precluded by other pending proposals" said Jennifer Koches, spokeswoman for the agency. "The settlement agreement does not include a commitment to designate critical habitat by a date specific. While we acknowledge the Endangered Species Act requires that critical habitat be designated for species listed as threatened or endangered to the maximum extent prudent and determinable, the Service has not yet determined the ghost orchid warrants listing."

The environmental groups say they're happy with the settlement, and that they hope ghost orchids will receive their own protections at the federal level soon.

"It's an agreement to make a decision by a certain date," said Elise Bennett, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diveristy, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "Originally a decision was due in January of 2023 and that came and went without a decision. They indicated that they were going to wait until 2026 but because of climate impacts, stronger storms and other issues we basically said that wasn't' fast enough, and we reached an agreement that they will do it next summer."

Concerns for the plant include impacts from climate change, larger tropical storms and hurricanes, and habitat loss.

The famous ghost orchid at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Collier County was first discovered in 2007. The plant is one of about 1,500 thought to be living in the wilds of south Florida.

“The ghost orchid has always been an elusive species, but in recent years, its population in the wild has plummeted," said Melissa Abdo, Sun Coast regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association. "Due to a series of compounding threats like climate change, poaching, and habitat loss, Florida’s favorite flower is hanging on by a thread. Without federal endangered species protections, the ghost orchid's days are numbered."

Abdo said there is still work to be done to ensure the future of this rare and mystical plant.

"(The) legal victory is a step in the right direction, and we hope that the Fish and Wildlife Service makes the scientifically sound final decision to list this enigmatic orchid species." Abdo said.

Environmental groups: feds were delaying orchid habitat designation

The Center for Biological Diversity, The Institute for Regional Conservation and the National Parks Conservation Association had filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for what they said was a delay in giving protections to Florida's ghost orchids.

The ghost orchid is the stuff of legends. "The Orchid Thief" was written by Susan Orlean about a ghost orchid theft ring, and a movie loosely based on the book was later released.

Orchid poachers have been caught in places like Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in recent years.

Mystical flower appears to float in the air

The flower is milky white and sticks out and away from the trunk on which it is rooted. It appears to hang in the air, as if is floating and is known for giving off a soap-like scent when in bloom.

Each summer they burst into life in the swampy corners of South Florida — from green spaces along urban boundaries at places like Six Mile Cypress Preserve to the bug-infested depths of Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, nicknamed the Orchid Capital of North America because of the quantity and quality of air plants found there.

More: Florida asks feds to let more than 1,000 permits slide after judge rules process illegal

FWS has said that it used 2022 to catch up on the review workload for years past, and that, going forward, it will review 310 species by 2027.

"This methodology is intended to allow us to address the outstanding workload of status reviews and accompanying 12-month findings strategically as our resources allow and to provide transparency to our partners and other stakeholders as to how we establish priorities within our workload into the future," Koches said last year.

This article originally appeared on Fort Myers News-Press: Environmental groups prevail in ghost orchid habitat lawsuit

EDUCATION OUTREACH CORNER

A major focus of NOS is to support orchid education. In addition to our annual Orchid Show and member programs at our monthly meetings, we offer presentations to community groups. Recently, NOS member Mary Lane was the speaker at the Moorings Park Community Center where she spoke to approximately 40 residents about orchids, their evolution, hybridization and culture.

In 2018, Mary moved to Naples, began her collection of orchids, and joined the Naples Orchid Society to learn more about orchid culture. Mary is an avid grower, bringing in many award-winning plants. Pictured here is Mary with her AOS awarded Grammatophyllum Multiflorum h.f. Citrinum 'Hihimanu.'

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We are very happy to report that our membership is healthy with 240 members. We continue to have record attendance at meetings with fabulous speakers and great learning opportunities.

OUR NOS MEMBERSHIP CONTACT

Marie Harris, Membership Director Text or Call: 239-877-1717 **Email: mharris@naplesproperties.com**

Board of Directors Meeting for June 2024

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday June 11, 2024

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.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2024

Please access this link for more details:
Monthly-Meeting-Minutes-May-2-2024.pdf (naplesorchidsociety.org)

MAY MONTHLY MEETING FOOD ORGANIZERS

Thank you to the following members who brought food goods to our May meeting: Marie Harris, Debbie Goldman, Marilyn Moser, Mary Southall, Ann Marie Fox, Robin DeMattia, Geoff Britt, Tamara Allan, Marija D Rosenfeld, Leah Ray, Kenneth and Joylett Davis, Brenda Brown, Karen Davenport and Susan Roehl.

FEATURED SPEAKER - ***Thanh Nguyen - Springwater Orchids***

Thanh Nguyen is the owner-operator of Springwater Orchids (Melbourne, FL). He is an engineer by trade, but also has been collecting and growing orchids for 35 years. His orchid business began in 2001, mainly selling on the internet but gradually moved to orchid shows in recent years.

Thanh loves orchid species. In addition, although he grows and sells all orchid genera, his forte has always been the genus Paphiopedilum. He collects fine plants; grows, sells, breeds, and enjoys sharing his experiences with his customers and colleagues. His passion in paphs resulted in numerous award-winning plants and an on-going paph breeding program using local lab work for flasking and growing the plants produced from seed in a warm, mid-Florida environment. His goal is to bring the excellence of a paphs breeding back to America. He augments his enthusiasm for paph growing by sharing his growing experience via educational programs at orchid shows, symposiums, and society meetings. You will see his breeding program presentation is a well-thought out process targeting various audiences. Thanh's presentations run the gamut from easy growing and flowering plants to state-of-the-art breeding innovations catering to the most discerning collectors' interests. He also strongly supports the conservation of breeding species, improving overall plant and flower quality, and broadening their range of growing conditions in order to make growing paphs a joy, not an aggravation!

GET YOUR NOS SHIRTS & HATS!

We will be offering our new NOS shirts & hats (with the NEW logo) at our upcoming meetings. Sizes for ladies shirts are S, M, L & men's are available S, M, L & XL. Special orders are accepted.

Shirts are $30 and Hats are $20.

AOS CORNER

From your AOS Representative Kris Morton

The AOS May 2024 issue of "Orchids" offers tips on Struggling Vandas, Dying Roots, Dying Leads, & Leaf Tip Dieback. See pages 352-353. These topics have been composed & compiled from the monthly Q&A webinars done by Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Education & Science Officer.

Joining an orchid society is a start to learning about growing orchids. Joining AOS can be the next step. We encourage you to join AOS, even if it is only for the online knowledge.

Some of the BEST orchid experts from around the world write articles for this magazine. All of our Show judges are accredited AOS judges. The awarded orchids are always featured in each issue.
Please consider joining AOS in 2024. Their website is www.AOS.ORG. There are so many benefits & discounts with your membership including discounts at many gardens, the AOS bookstore, & more in addition to supporting orchid conservation. You will have a choice of their fabulous archive of articles along with either receiving the Orchids magazine as a hard copy or online. If you need an application, I always have them at each monthly meeting. ☺

Note: My May issue of AOS "Orchids" was lost somewhere by the USPS. It will probably show up somewhat damaged & repackaged later this summer. I decided to read the issue on my iPad & WOW! Beautiful! I was even able to enlarge print & photos. I may do this more often. Therefore, if you do not want to get the hard copy (& save on the subscription) I highly recommend it.

AOS WEBINARS

Registration is easy. http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.espx
Cannot make it on the scheduled date and time? No need to worry. Register now and view on your time schedule. Greenhouse Chat webinars are recorded and indexed by topic for future viewing.

June 13, 2024, Thursday: 8:30 pm EDT, Greenhouse Chat Orchid Q & A.
Send in your photos & questions by June 11. Presenter: Ron McHatton, Chief Education & Science Officer

UPCOMING EVENT TO CHECK OUT

June 1-2, 2024: Central Florida Orchid Society's "iSpy an Orchid," Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S Fern Creek Ave, Orlando, FL; Contact; Jerry Steele, 352-300-6023; orchidguy.steele@gmail.com.

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.

For Martin Motes "Progress of the Season" monthly orchid newsletter click on link & Ctrl then on subscribe (**Subscribe to Motes Orchids Monthly Newsletter redlandpress.com)**

REDLAND ORCHID FESTIVAL TRIP UPDATE

Article Written by Terre Moore

An intrepid group of orchid lovers from NOS, GCOA, and Fort Myers made the trip to the Redland Orchid Festival in Homestead on Saturday, May 18. Admittedly, the weather was hot, hot, hot; however, the number of vendors and the variety of plants available thrilled us all. It was a lot of fun and a great way to get to know more club members and buy a few new beauties.

The trip was a great success and we are now considering a grower tour for the fall, and planning a trip to the Tamiami International Orchid Show in January!

PLEASE CHECKOUT MORE PHOTOS OF OUR TRIP ON THE NAPLES ORCHID SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE

oca 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

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

What's Blooming in My Collection?

Bulbophyllum Jersey
Marilyn Moser

Cattleytonia Capri 'Lea'
Lea Leonard

Dendrobium Jacquelyn Thomas
Nancy Castonguay

Brassavola tuberculata 'Norm Dolder'
Karen Davenport

Laelia superbiens var alba
Karen Davenport

Lc. Twilight Song x V.
Lea Leonard

Max. tenufolia (yellow)
Marilyn Moser

Mcp. Tribiana 2
Rae Jean Walker

Gram. scriptum (leopard)
Nancy Castonguay

Do you have a blooming orchid in your collection? Please send us your orchid photo and name so we can feature it here! Submit to: bcastlts@comcast.net

Naples Orchid Society
Monthly Plant Table Results
May 2, 2024

Submitted by Marilyn Moser

Large Cattleyas
First Place: *C.* Irene Feeney
Owner: Mary Southall
Second Place: *Rlc*. Fringe Benefits
Owner: Jim Longwell
Small Cattleyas
First Place: *Enc.* Nursery Rhyme
Owner: Jim Longwell
Second Place: *Bc.* North Miami
Owner: Jim Longwell
Third Place: *Rlc.* Siam Song
Owner: Karolyn Hall
Large Vandas
First Place: *V.* Muang Thong x Tubtim Velvet
Owner: Jim Longwell
Second Place: *C.* Kulwadee Fragrance x *V.* Dr. Anek
Owner: Jim Longwell
Third Place: *V.* Purple Star
Owner: Jim Longwell
Small Phalaenopsis
First Place: *Phal*. Ming Shing 'Cute Pinky'
Owner: Jim Longwell
Second Place: *Phal.* Ox Bravo
Owner: Edvin Aguilar
Third Place: *Phal.* Cingo Diamond 'Salu Peoker
Owner: Terre Moore
Dendrobiums
First Place: *Den*. Ceasar Red Big Lip
Owner: Karen Davenport
Second Place: *Den*. Firewings
Owner: Karolyn Hall
Large Phalaenopsis
First Place: *Phal*. Sogo Yokidian
Owner: Geoff Britt
Small Vanda
First Place: *V.* Edwin Hausermann
Owner: Rae Jean Walker
Second Place: *V.* Kalsom
Owner: Karen Davenport
Third Place: *V.* Brightful Red
Owner: Jim Longwell
Large Species
First Place: *Ryn.* digbyana
Owner: Leah Ray
Second Place: *C.* violacea semi-alba 'Flammea'
Owner: Karen Davenport
Third Place: *C.* violacea
Owner: Jim Longwell

Medium Species
First Place: *Den*. aphyllum
Owner: Joylett Davis
Second Place: Max tenufolia
Owner: Jim Longwell
Third Place: *Onc.* baueri
Owner: Joylett Davis
Small Species
First Place: Ascocentrum curvifolium
Owner: Jim Longwell
Oncidium Alliance
First Place: *Mps.* Pretty in Pink
Owner: Stuart Rubin
Slipper
First Place: *Paph.* Shirley Amundson
Owner: Barbara Holdsworth
Other Tribes
Cym. Golden Elf
Owner: Rae Jean Walker
Orphans
First Place: Pink
Owner: Edvin Aguilar
Second Place: *Phal.*
Owner: Gretchen Andersen
Third Place: Purple *Phal.*
Owner: Barbara Holdsworth
Best Hybrid Gold Ribbon
Plant Name: *C.* Jackfowliera Appleblossom 'Hihimanu'
Owner: Karen Davenport
Best Species Gold Ribbon
Plant Name: Ascocentrum curvifolium
Owner: Jim Longwell
Green Tag Plant Winner
Winner: Rae Jean Walker
Plant: *E.* Rioclarence

Gold Ribbon Winners May 2, 2024

Photos on this page by Sue Roehl, Webmaster

BEST SPECIES
First Place: *Ascoscentrum curvifolium*
Owner: Jim Longwell

BEST HYBRID
Plant Name: *C.* Jackfowliera Appleblossom 'Hihimanu'
Owner: Karen Davenport

Blue Ribbon Winners May 2, 2024

Blue Ribbon Winner Photos by Marilyn Moser

LARGE CATTLEYAS
First Place: *C.* Irene Feeney
Owner: Mary Southall

LARGE VANDA
First Place: *V.* Muang Thong x Tubtim Velvet Owner: Jim Longwell

SMALL CATTLEYAS
First Place: *Enc.* Nursery Rhyme
Owner: Jim Longwell

SMALL PHALAENOPSIS
First Place: *Phal*. Ming Shing 'Cute Pinky'
Owner: Jim Longwell

DENDROBIUM
First Place: *Den*. Ceasar Red Big Lip
Owner: Karen Davenport

LARGE SPECIES
First Place: *Ryn.* digbyana
Owner: Leah Ray

LARGE PHALAENOPSIS
First Place: *Phal*. Sogo Yokidian
Owner: Geoff Britt

SMALL VANDA
First Place: *V.* Edwin Hausermann
Owner: Rae Jean Walker

MEDIUM SPECIES
First Place: *Den*. aphyllum
Owner: Joylett Davis

SMALL SPECIES
First Place: Ascocentrum curvifolium
Owner: Jim Longwell

ORPHANS
First Place: Pink
Owner: Edvin Aguilar

ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE
First Place: *Mps.* Pretty in Pink
Owner: Stuart Rubin

OTHER TRIBES
First Place: *Cym.* Golden Elf
Owner: Rae Jean Walker

SLIPPER
First Place: *Paph.* Shirley Amundson
Owner: Barbara Holdsworth