

# BROS ORCHIDS

Baton  
Rouge  
Orchid  
Society



The Newsletter Of  
The Baton Rouge  
Orchid Society



**7 PM, Wed**  
**Aug 18, 2021**



***Dotty Woodson***  
**'Lady Slipper Orchids'**

Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82787274076>



Because of the recent Covid-19 surge, BROS decided to keep this meeting strictly Zoom.

Enjoy this talk in your home.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again next month!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82787274076>

# Dotty Woodson

Dr Woodson wears many hats: Water Conservation Specialist, Horticulturist, Greenhouse Management, irrigation Efficiency Specialist, and — of course — Orchid Consultant. Her presentation will cover subgenera of Lady Slipper Orchids and where these beautiful orchids grow.

After you have mastered growing *Phalaenopsis*, time to branch out. Many Lady Slipper orchids grow under similar conditions.

Dotty will provide cultural information about how you can grow these orchids for a greenhouse, indoors at window or under lights, and outdoors 'for the summer'. Also, where do the North American native Lady Slippers orchids, *Cypripediums*, grow and how to protect them.



# AOS Culture Sheet on Lady Slippers

Paphiopedilums, the lady's-slipper orchids, originate in the jungles of the Far East including Indonesia. They are semiterrestrial, growing in humus and other material on the forest floor, on cliffs in pockets of humus and occasionally in trees. They are easy to grow in the home, under lights or in the greenhouse.

**Light** is easier to provide for paphiopedilums than many other types of orchids. They require shady conditions, as in the home in an east or west window, or near a shaded south window. In the greenhouse, shade must be provided. Give about 1,000 to 1,500 foot-candles. In the home, fluorescent lighting is excellent; suspend two or four tubes 6 to 12 inches above the leaves.

**Temperatures** for paphiopedilums cover a considerable range. Paphiopedilums are traditionally separated into two groups: the warm-growing mottled-leaved types and the cool-growing green-leaved types. A third, increasingly popular group is the warmer-growing strap-leaved multifloral paphiopedilums. Warm-growing types should be kept at 60 to 65 F during the night, and 75 to 85 F or more during the day. Cool-growing types should be kept at 50 to 60 F during the night and 75 to 80 F during the day. However, many growers raise all plants in the same temperature range with excellent results. The plants can stand night temperatures in the 40s if necessary (as when grown outside in mild climates), as well as temperatures to 95 F. Care must be taken to protect the plants from rot when cold (keep humidity low, and avoid moisture on leaves or in the crowns of the plants), and also to protect from burning when hot (shade more heavily and increase humidity and air movement around the plants).

**Water** must be available at the roots constantly, because all plants in this genus have no pseudobulbs. All of these plants need a moist medium - never soggy, but never dry. Water once or twice a week.

**Humidity** for paphiopedilums should be moderate, between 40 and 50 percent, which can be maintained in the home by setting the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the plants never sit in water. In a greenhouse, average humidity is sufficient. Using an evaporative cooling system in warm climates can increase the humidity. Air movement is essential, especially when humidity is high.

**Fertilize** on a regular schedule, but care must be taken to avoid burning of the fleshy, hairy roots. High-nitrogen fertilizers (such as 30-10-10) are recommended when potted in any fir-bark mix. In warm weather, some growers use half-strength applications every two weeks; others use one-quarter strength at every watering. It's important to flush with clear water monthly to leach excess fertilizer, which can burn roots. In cool weather, fertilizer applications once a month are sufficient.

**Potting** should be done about every two years, or as the medium decomposes. Seedlings and smaller plants are often repotted annually. Mixes vary tremendously; most are fine- or medium-grade fir bark, with varying additives, such as perlite (sponge rock), coarse sand and sphagnum moss. Moisture retention with excellent drainage is needed. Large plants can be divided by pulling or cutting the fans of the leaves apart, into clumps of three to five growths. Smaller divisions will grow, but may not flower. Spread the roots over a small amount of medium in the bottom of the pot and fill with medium, so that the junction of roots and stem is buried 1D 2 inch deep in the center of the pot. Do not overpot; an average plant should have a 4- to 6-inch pot.

## Minutes from the July Meeting

The Baton Rouge Orchid Society met on July 20 in person and by zoom at the Burden Center.

Our speaker was Stephen Van Kampen-Lewis who presented his talk on the culture of *Cyrtopodium* orchids from his home in Austin, Texas. Stephen is an AOS judge and is currently vice president of the Heart of Texas Orchid Society.

The genus *Cyrtopodium* was discovered in 1813 in South America. The juice of the pseudobulbs have been used to glue leather, wood, and was used on large wounds of people. He explained that most of these orchids are terrestrial, but there are some that are epiphytes. These orchids like to grow in full sun; they need plenty of water and fertilizer during the growing period. The terrestrials need a "hard" dry dormancy, and the epiphytes just needs a dry dormancy. Stephen also stated that these plants are easy to grow.

Frank Zachariah reported that there are two *Cyrtopodium* orchids in the conservatory. He also requested members to help out in the Conservatory on other dates beside the first Saturday of the month. If members get in touch with him, they can let him know what date they would be available to help out; and he can make arrangements to have the Conservatory open.

Frank McMains reported that new officers are needed for the coming year, and asked members to volunteer for a position. T shirts are still available in all sizes for \$20.

Sincerely,

*Marie Williams* (for Patty Granier, Secretary)

# August Membership News



We have some members with August Birthdays:

**Pat Canning**  
**Lynnette Frazer**  
**Michael Gurjack-Frost**  
**Mary McMains**  
**Frank McMains**  
**Richard Schmidt**  
**Tin-Wein Yu**



**Happy Birthday to all!**

If I missed anybody, please let me know.

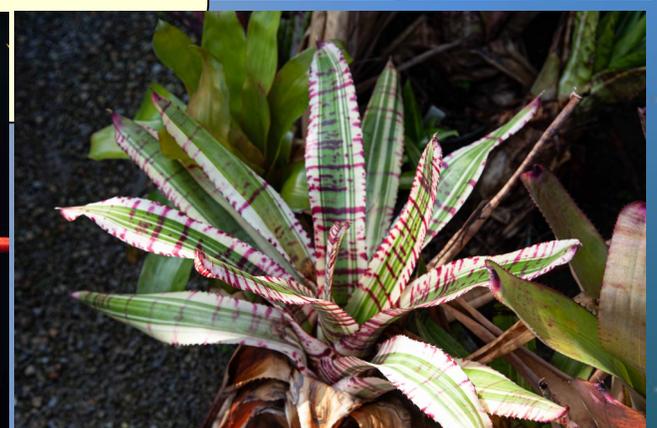
***Nancy Morrison***  
***Membership Chair***

# LSU Conservatory Notes by Frank Z

We have some bromeliad guests residing in our Conservatory (thanks to a donation by Tyler Carr). They will be in our grhs until we find a permanent home for them and will be part of our exhibit when we open the LSU Display greenhouse to the public.

Thanks to everyone that helped out for the workday.

Photos by Peter Grant.



# Orchid Conservatory

## Photos by Glenn Gawarecki

Didn't think we had that many in bloom this month. I was wrong.



**There were 3 awards given to  
2 orchids last month in Alexandria  
at our Louisiana Orchid Judging Center.**

**V. Siriporn Pink  
'Julia Katherine', AM/AOS  
Grower: Eron Borne**



**Chiloschista parishii 'Benin',  
2 awards: AM/AOS & CCM/AOS  
Grower: Mary Mancini**

# Our Hawaiian Escape

Pat Canning

In early July, Hal and I had an opportunity to take a quick vacation to Hawaii! We had visited the islands of Maui and Kauai before, but never the Big Island. We were super excited to go (actually, we super excited to be going anywhere.) Prior to leaving, Frank Zachariah suggested that we call Tom Mirenda, an orchid judge and expert who lives in Hilo and Mattias Seelis owner of Shogun Hawaii which is located outside of Hilo. Many of you may remember Mattias – he gave a Zoom presentation to our club last spring and Tom was the guy behind the camera. Prior to leaving, Hal called both of them. Mattias said he would love to have us come to visit; however, he told us that finding his place would be a challenge because GPS did not work out in the wilderness. Hmm. Well, it couldn't be that bad – right? Hal then proceeded to call Tom. Tom was most hospitable and suggested that we stay at his home while we were in the Hilo area. Since our hotel reservations were already made for the entire trip in Kona, a two hour car ride away, we graciously took him up on his offer! He also told us that he would take us to Shogun! Hurray, no GPS needed.



What a marvelous adventure! We ventured out mid-morning from our hotel to trek across the island. The Big Island has a very interesting topography. The Kona side is full of volcanic rock. There were signs along the highway to watch for the wild donkeys, which haven't been seen in years. Nevertheless, I kept my eyes peeled for those extinct creatures. None crossed our path. As we headed up alongside of the volcanic mountain, the volcanic rock gave way to green pastures and wooded terrain. Finally, we reached the other side of the island with enough time to visit the Botanical Garden before meeting up with Tom. We walked down a ramp that descended from 300 ft to sea level to enjoy all the plants that one would expect in such a garden. There were many orchids attached to trees. Unfortunately, few were in bloom. The only observation that my untrained eye saw was that the phalaenopsis attached to the trees were doing very poorly. In fact, they looked like they were on their "last leg." The only downside to visiting this garden was that we had to walk back up that incline. Oxygen please.

We arrived at Tom's house just in time to get a quick tour of his plants and clean up a bit before going out to dinner. An orchid enthusiast couple from California joined us. They, too, had reached out to Tom to help them get in touch with other orchid growers in the area. All of us went into town where we met up with one of Tom's friends who was holding a table for us at their favorite "watering hole." The six of us enjoyed sharing bar food, drinking beer and wine and listening to a live band playing authentic Hawaiian music. What Fun!

The next morning was The Big Day. We started with a stop at the grocery store with an out of this world bakery. Tom loaded up with boxes of donuts – literally – boxes of donuts. After a fight at the cash register, he overpowered me and paid for all of them. I had no earthly idea why he bought so much. After eating just one donut, I quickly realized why he had bought so many! Then on to have breakfast at his favorite spot that was close to Mattias' place. The California couple met us there; however, the water pipe had broken in the restaurant and breakfast was off the table. Thank God for donuts! Then on to Shogun we go. When in Hawaii, getting from one place to another is measured in how much time it takes to get there: not in miles. Shogun was just a few miles from the restaurant, but it was at least 30 minutes away! Directions were sketchy – turn left at the church, then the second right. Uh was that a road or a driveway? No, keep going. On and on we went at a snail's pace. These back woods roads were narrow and B U M P Y. The potholes qualified for water retention reservoirs. Thank goodness we were in Tom's truck, and he knew the way. Our rented car would not have made it. Finally, we arrived at Shogun. As we drove into the property, it opened up to reveal 8 huge greenhouses, all surrounded by gorgeous blooming ginger. What a sight. To give you some perspective of his setup, two structures the size of our conservatory could fit into one of his structures. Tom promptly got out of the car and presented Mattias with two boxes of donuts. Apparently, that's the key to getting a good tour. A good tour is what we got. Mattias was most gracious and spent the morning talking about orchids – from A – Z. Even me, an orchid grower by osmosis, hung on every word he said. His orchids looked like each one was in perfect condition. And, there were rows and rows and rows of them. Mattias said that he gets up at 4:00 am to start watering. As we were walking from one greenhouse to another, I looked the opposite way and realized why everything is so perfect.

# Our Hawaiian Escape

Pat Canning

On the left, was the graveyard. There lay a pile of orchids that any us would have been happy to have.

All they needed was a little extra love, or lack thereof, and they probably would have been fine. But he said that he does not have the time to try to save a plant that shows frailty, so off to the graveyard it goes. He wants to maintain his reputation of selling only top quality plants. As we were readying to leave, Mattias disappeared for a bit. Upon returning he had beautiful cut ginger blooms in his hand. He quickly arranged them in a nice looking bouquet and presented them to me!

After leaving Shogun, Tom told us that he had made arrangements for us to visit his friend's private garden. We were running somewhat late, so we skipped lunch – thank goodness for donuts, again. It was on the opposite side of Hilo from Mattias; about 10 miles. After about an hour or so and a few wrong turns, we finally found the driveway with the orange bucket up front. I could tell by the entrance to the property, that we were in for a treat. The entire three acres, with the exception of the square that his house was built on, was exquisitely manicured with exotic trees, palms and ferns growing all around. The walking path was lined with 3 – 4 foot coleus, agapanthus and other blooming flowers. And then there were the orchids. But before I get to them, I must remember to mention that Tom presented Rick with 2 boxes of donuts. And yes, we got the two-box tour. Rick walked us around all three acres pointing out each tree, palm, and fern by name, mentioning their place of origin and how long it took for them to get to their current point of maturity. On each tree, there were at least two to three orchids attached, many of which were in bloom. I hesitate to count the number of pictures that I took. He said the orchids were at their peak about four weeks prior to our arrival but I can't imagine them being any more beautiful than what we saw that day. Rick explained that he plants coleus all around to keep the weeds down. Needless to say, we had an enjoyable day. We could not express our gratitude to Tom for taking us around. We would have never been able to find or navigate the roads to Shogun nor to Rick's garden without him. Since we didn't have enough time to go the last place on Tom's list, Tom insisted that we take the last two boxes of donuts.

We spent the night at a small inn on private property with a beautiful waterfall. We left the donuts at the inn for others to enjoy. The following morning, we took what is called the Saddle Road to go back to the resort in Kona. The road climbed to 6,700 feet in between two volcanos. We were in the clouds with misty rain for a while before descending back down to sea level.

Of course, we did other sightseeing adventures such as a volcano tour, touring the island, watching dolphins and sea turtles, stargazing, and going in a submarine to see the coral reef 109 ft under water. The whole trip was enjoyable, but the orchids (and the donuts) were the highlights of our stay.



**2021**

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