

The Elusive Ghost Orchid



Photo of a fig sphinx (*Pachylia ficus*) feeding from a ghost orchid. Carlton Ward Jr. captured this photograph in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.
PHOTOGRAPH BY CARLTON WARD, JR.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thankfulness

In these times especially, it can be hard to see all the wonderful things around us. Thankfully, we have our blooms that usually bring us joy and sometimes back to reality.

Let me share a few things for which I'm thankful!

Our incredible volunteers. Our Chairperson Robin Buckler and our volunteers pulled off another successful auction. Through their efforts they raised a significant amount of funding needed for next year's operations.

I'm thankful for the volunteers on our CFOS Board. Each of you contribute in great ways, we wouldn't be successful without you! For those who are terming out, you will be missed. However, know, we will always need your expertise.

I'm thankful for our members. Seeing as many of you as possible each month, those who join us via zoom...all smiles and thrilled to talk blooms, share growing tips, bringing in blooms for us to drool over. This really makes all the work behind the scenes worth it.

I'm thankful for my plants. I know that sounds just so corny, I also know this group will "get" just what I'm saying. To me, there is no place better than in my greenhouse. I'm again thankful to be surrounded by like minded people!

I'm also thankful not to live in a cold climate. However, that doesn't mean we don't need to plan in advance for those few cold nights. If the weather experts are on target, we are in for many cold days/nights this season. Start your planning now, don't be like me trying to button down the hatches at the last minute....just too stressful that way.

For those who haven't heard, Leu Gardens is undergoing renovations during December. Therefore, the holiday party has been postponed until January. What a fun way to kick off the new year!

Thank you everyone for being a part of our group!

Lori Erlacher
CFOS President

October Winners



Large Cattleya Alliance
American Freedom Crystelle
Owner Unknown



Cattleya Alliance Species
Epi Ciliare
Owner Alida Eldridge



Small Cattleya Alliance
Rlc. Haadyai Delight
'Bangprom Gold'
Owner Jerry Steel & Adrian



Culture/Specimen
Epi Ciliare
Owner Alida Eldridge



Dendrobium Species/Hybrid
Den. Burana White
Owner Shareen Cowman



Oncidium Species/Hybrid
Miltassia Dark Star 'Darth Vader'
Owner Alida Eldridge



Misc. Species and Hybrid
Habanera Deutata
Owner Cari Johnson

Don't forget to bring in your blooming
beauties for judging each month

2021 AUCTION!

We auctioned off 424 items.

Our auction results are total sales of \$8277.00, with expenses of \$2169.63 giving us a total profit of \$6157.36!

A huge thank you to Robin and her team of volunteers who made this happen, Steve and his team who got everything auctioned off and another thank you to all the members who participated and did a great job of donating, bidding and buying.





October

1 - Rodney Atkinson
11 - Doris Bishop
10 - Elaine Taylor
13 - Jeanne Brenan

20 - Lorraine Amos
23 - Kathi Clifford
24 - John Hicks Jr

November

2 - John Beasley
7 - Kent Nauman
8 - Irvin Fox
12 - Alida Eldridge
15 - Betsy Dasse
18 - Sharon Cowman

20 - Robin Buckler
27 - Mickey O'Brien
29 - Charles Chapman
30 - Sandra Atkinson



11-5-2019 Beth & Jun Nibungco



To Our New Members

Maria Coords
Travis Marois
Noel McCutchan
Luis Martinez
Maria Forsyth

Membership is now due and can be paid at our meeting with cash, check or credit and on the website with a credit card. [MEMBER SALES](#)

Yearly dues:

Individual - \$30 Couple - \$45 Under 18 - \$15



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.



Let's Grow Together

October: The Month of Insanity

By: Thomas Mirenda

Those of you who have the luxury of living in a climate where tropical orchids can remain outside through the winter cannot imagine the brow-furrowing vexations endured by those of us who have to sequester our orchid collections to safety before the winter season. Not only is every square inch of windowsill or greenhouse bench space already spoken for, many orchid nurseries choose this time of year to advertise lower prices and bargains. After all, many of them need to pack up for the winter too. I learned long ago that I cannot resist an orchid sale so my windowsills and benches will always be filled beyond capacity through the inclement weather.

This is the kind of obsession that many of us share. Some would call it passion, others pathology. However, due to our fascination with the outrageous diversity displayed in the tens of thousands of orchid species and the never-ending array of spectacular and easy to grow hybrids, we must resign ourselves to slavishly devoting hours of our personal time, and dedicating vast amounts of space and financial resources to our collections. Are we insane? Well, if so, we are in good company. Some extremely respectable individuals (not I, of course) are secret orchid growers. You would never know it if you saw them at work or on the street. They seem normal enough, with respectable careers, devoted spouses and above-average children. But we know that we are living on the edge, seized by an uncontrollable mania that immerses us in that beautiful and mesmerizing world of orchids. If you have not yet reached capacity, what are you waiting for?

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT Your collection grew well this summer thanks to all the excellent care you gave it after reading about the plants in Orchids. Those that summered outside received plenty of rainwater, excellent light and air movement. Many have put on large new pseudobulbs. Cattleyas are forming sheaths, phalaenopsis are hardening their newest growths and dendrobiums are producing terminal leaves on their long canes, basically finishing their vegetative growth for the year. Now is the time to prepare the winter growing space, be it a windowsill, light room or greenhouse. If you have not already done so, take the time to clear out debris from last year, clean and sterilize the surfaces with a disinfectant and plan your strategy for getting all your orchids safely inside for the winter.

NO HIDDEN PASSENGERS With many of your warmer-growing plants, such as vandas and angraecoids, about to come in for the winter before the first cold snaps, September may be your last chance to check your orchids for hitchhiking critters. Any number of undesirable winter residents may have invaded orchids that are outside. Sucking insects, such as mites, scale or mealybugs, are often decimated by the beneficial insects that live in our yards or washed away by rains, but sometimes, small enclaves of these pests survive. Take the time now to look over plants carefully and treat any pests accordingly. Even though they may not be visible on the leaves, colonies of ants sometimes invade the porous interstices of orchid mix. These cannot be tolerated and could cause you a lot of grief if allowed in the greenhouse. Once discovered, the ants must be evicted either by drowning or drenching with an insecticide. It is always a good idea to repot such plants in fresh medium as the old mix is likely to be seriously broken down or badly acidified by the formic acid released by ant habitation.

FLOWER POWER Many hobbyists anticipate the approaching blooming season for many orchids, including cymbidium, phalaenopsis and dendrobiums, by fertilizing plants less frequently and with a lower concentration. In particular, the use of high-nitrogen fertilizers this time of year can inhibit blooming by encouraging plants to continue growing foliage. For orchids that you are expecting to spike in the autumn, switching to a blossom booster fertilizer now can give plants the extra boost they need to flower extravagantly.

THE LITTLE DEATH A few orchids — deciduous dendrobiums, lcastes, many terrestrials (Habenaria, Cynorkis) and some members of the Catasetinae — are showing brown tipped or yellowing leaves now. Do not be alarmed. Usually shortly after the autumn equinox, as day length starts to shorten, many orchids adjust and slough off leaves in preparation for dormancy. Most of these are benefiting from the cooler night temperatures after enduring the summer heat and are genetically programmed to shut down their metabolisms. Respond by letting these plants dry out and holding back plant fertilizer. Over watering now can lead to rot problems later in the autumn.

JUST ONE MORE It is so tempting to load up on new orchids during those ubiquitous autumn sales. I certainly cannot preach to anyone about the virtues of restraint when it comes to orchid acquisition, so I hereby release you from any guilt you may be feeling about crowding your collection too much this winter. It may be irresponsible of me to tell you this, but we are what we are. I believe the correct word is “enthusiasts.” So go for it. Order a few new sale plants from orchid nurseries. And have fun.

In Memoriam

Vern Bloch departed this earth on October 8th after a mercifully short bout with a rare form of Parkinson's Disease. Vern spent 20 years as a Navy pilot, 15 of them at sea on aircraft. After 28 years of service, he retired in 1987 at the rank of captain. Two years later, he and his wife, Helen, became owners of the Palm Bay Orchid Range and participated in many orchid shows around the state. They sold the nursery in 2004 but continued to grow orchids and participate in the orchid world. Vern used the clonal name "HEB" to honor his beloved wife, so when you see HEB on a tag, give a little nod to Vern for a life well lived.

(St Augustine Orchid Society)



Meet Sheila Coburn. She is fairly new to our society, 2018, but has stepped up to take on the task of getting us all set up for Zoom meetings during the pandemic. She has been named a Master Gardener in Orange County and during that time, became



interested in orchids and saw it as a challenge to learn about their care and culture.

While volunteering at Leu Gardens, she found out about CFOS and immediately saw it as a great opportunity.

At the moment she is looking to move out of the apartment she lives in with her mother whom she cares for, so she can have more room to get more orchids. Her favorites are mini Phals and Slippers.

Her other interests are techno gadgets and breeding butterflies. She loves keeping busy and is always learning something new. She has 2 cats which were foster failures and they rule her home. She has a brother who passed several years ago, a sister in Tavares with her 2 nephews and another in Jacksonville with her 3 nieces.





You can visit The Central Florida Orchid Society on the web where you can get information about upcoming events, see who next month's speaker is, read about our society's history, find some great resource links for care of your orchids, and pay your dues.

Check us out at <https://cflorchidsociety.org>



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You shop. Amazon gives.



You can support our Society simply by shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. Just go to <http://smile.amazon.com> every time you shop at Amazon Smile they'll donate .05% of the profits to us! When you checkout for the first time, you will be asked to designate your charity. Type in Central Florida Orchid Society in the search bar - We appear as "**Central Florida Orchid Society Inc**"



Like the "Central Florida Orchid Society group" on Facebook. We post details about all of our events, meetings and shows. There is an amazing collection of pictures of our orchids from previous events and judgments, as well as an open forum for questions and discussion. Click on the link below and join in on the fun!!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cflorchidsociety>

Spotlight on AOS Elite Marketplace Partner, Krull-Smith.

As hybridizers their plants are among the top awarded by the AOS including this *Renanthera lmschootiana* pictured. It was a joy to behold this plant in April 2021. *At seven feet wide, it became only one of two perfect cultural awards given to a grower scoring 100 points (highest possible) in the history of AOS judging!*



Culture Group

For those members interested in hands-on learning for the care and culture of all types of orchids, the Cultural Study Group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00PM at Leu Botanical Gardens. Last month, we had our holiday party and a fun time was had by all. Members are encouraged to bring in their “problem plants” for show and tell and for guidance on how to address the problem. Teri Scott oversees this meeting and is a wealth of information that she gladly shares. There will be no meeting in December or January.

Central Florida Orchid Society could not be held every month without our team of leaders. They are invaluable in planning, scheduling and keeping our society alive.

Please thank these volunteers.

Remember: They volunteer for the benefit of the society.

If called upon by these individuals to assist, please find a way to say 'yes'!!

Leadership

President:	Lori Erlacher	cflorchidsociety.org
Vice President:	Brian Behm	vp@cflorchidsociety.org
Treasurer:	Nancy Balderson	treasurer@cflorchidsociety.org
Cor. Secretary:	Helen Tomaszewski	corsecretary@cflorchidsociety.org
Rec. Secretary:	Robin Buckler	recsecretary@cflorchidsociety.org
Membership:	Ed Eldridge	membership@cflorchidsociety.org
Newsletter:	Jeanne Brenan	cfoseditor@aol.com

Board of Directors

Lorna Gordon Jennie Perley Mary Z. Pinkham Cari Johnson

NOVEMBER 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 7pm Culture group Holiday Party	5	6
7	8 7pm CFOS meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 7:30pm AOS Orchid Study Group via ZOOM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Society membership dues can be paid at one of our meetings or on our website