

July/August 2022

Inside pg 7:
AOS Coloring &
Sticker Book



# A Note from the Editor



#### **Return to Leu Gardens!**

Our July and August meetings were hosted by and held at Krull-Smith. Even with the heat of the summer, Krull-Smith made sure we were comfortable.

July we learned about bulbophyllums. Who knew there were so many different types... AND fragrances. Some good and some nearly repulsive, but all beautiful in their own way.

August was a hands on class with Cattleyas. We learned about how they grow, what makes them not bloom and how and when to repot.

We were also invited both times to visit and purchase from their beautiful showroom.

It was such a success for us, as well as Krull-Smith, that we may make it an annual event.

Now we head back to Leu Gardens to resume our regular 2nd Monday meetings. Don't forget to bring in your blooming plants, your silent auction/raffle table donations and snacks. If you do bring something in, make sure you let someone at one of the tables know so you can collect your ORCHID BUCKS!!

Can't wait to see you all and your blooming beauties!!!

CFOS Editor
Jeanne Brenan

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Auction
October 2022

Join us in congratulating our own Joselito Tolentino for his recent AOS award!!!



Cattleya Tenebrosa
(Aurea) 'Paulwela Gold'
AM/AOS 81 pts.
Exhibitor: Joselito Tolentino.
Florida North-Central Judging

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM KRULL-SMITH



A fun time was had by all!



## July

#### 10 - Georgeanne Lewis

- 13 Tony Byrd
- 16 Doug Watson

#### 21 - James Sabetto

- 23 Pat Jackowski
- 25 Marcia Ogelsby

## August

- 2 Tsurulo Moenckmeier
- 4 Lori Erlacher
- 7 Caryl Robinson
- 9 Nancy Balderson
- 13 Frank Dasse
- 15 Dennis Lenhart
- 16 Nicole Oda
- 16 Jim Tumilty
- 21 Jay Shafer
- 23 Dana Brotz
- 24 Joselito Tolentino



- 8-04 Lita-Marie Moody
- 8-11 Rhonda Hunt
- 8-14 Roy Onyette
- 8-18 Nancy Balderson
- 8-27 Judy & David Grieve



Pamela Miller
Thomas Cleere
Lydia Matos Cleere
Katherine Smith
Julien Baruch
Cheryl Lombard

## 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. Members are encouraged to bring in their "problem plants" for show and tell and for guidance on how to address those problems. Membership for this group is \$5 annually. Teri Scott oversees this meeting and is a wealth of information that she gladly shares.



## American Orchid Society Education. Conservation. Research.



## Let's Grow Together



In addition to recorded webinars, there is a video library on the AOS website. The American Orchid Society video library contains many useful, how-to video clips on various aspects of orchids and orchid culture. These videos are self-contained and do not require any player or other software.

Learn more about joining the AOS

https://secure.aos.org/join/new-membership



The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society

#### **Orchid Checklist**

August: The Month of Ambrosia

By Thomas Mirenda

Among the purest and most primal joys of the plant world are the wonderful perfumes and aromas emanating from your orchid collection and your garden this month. August is not a month to toil, but rather one to savor the wonders of creation, for how often have you really looked at your orchid flowers? Sure, they are colorful and beautiful, but they are so much more. They are part of the continuity of life, an end-product of evolution, a lure, irresistible to pollinators — and humans.

Ambrosia, in Greek mythology, was the food of the gods and was thought to confer ageless immortality to those who consumed it. In Homeric tradition, it was perceived to be a kind of divine exhalation of the earth. Nectar, the drink of the gods, comes from the contraction of two Greek words — nek (death) and tar (overcoming) — indicating its healing and life-giving properties.

This month, we must appreciate what comes from the earth. It is now, in our gardens' summer peak, that we, bathed in early morning dight or encroaching twilight, emerge from our chambers to sample the fruit and fragrances wrought by our toils earlier in the spring. It is most important to take in that sweet ambrosia offered daily by the plant world. While it's unlikely that those who do will achieve immortality, the peace and pleasure to be gained are timeless.

**FRAGRANCES** - Among the most amazing aromatic flowers in the plant world are the blossoms of Stanhopeas and their allies. Often smelling like an exotic mixture of several different fragrances, most of these plants have sharply pendulous inflorescences and should be grown in hanging baskets. If you have young seedlings or divisions of Stanhopeas or their relatives, such as Embreeas, Gongoras, Acinetas, or Coryanthes, in regular pots, lift the plants from their pots to check and make sure they have not sent out inflorescences into the mix. Often these inflorescences, unable to escape the confines of the pot, end up rotting. It is possible for many Stanhopeas and their relatives to bloom at an earlier age than you might think, and a gentle transfer of young plants into baskets might be in order before their spikes develop too much.

**UNINVITED GUESTS** - The summer heat generally means stepped-up insect activity. There are both good and bad insects in the garden, and if you have chosen to summer plants outside, you have got some of each among your plants. Be on the lookout for parasites such as mealybugs and scale. And be prepared to spray insecticides if you are finding large infestations. If, however, after a thorough search you find minimal problems, your beneficial insects, such as ladybugs and other small predators, are likely to keep plants free of problems. Spraying at this point would only damage beneficial populations.

**ANTS** - One of the worst pests in August is ants. Their colonies will often invade the coarse, airv conditions of orchid media and will greatly acidify the mix. Observe plants after a heavy watering, and, if an ant colony is present, it will be obvious by the ants streaming out of the saturated mix. It is not fun, but such plants must be purged of ants and repotted immediately. Ants are vectors for many other insects and cannot be tolerated.

**ANT PLANTS** - While I have never tried this, and do not dare recommend it, there are certain plants that, in the wild anyway, seem to benefit from the presence of ants. In particular, Myrmecophila (which means "ant I lover" in Latin) has symbiotic relationships with ants that act as the plants' bodyguards during the dry season. The plants supply space and nectar in their hollow pseudobulbs where the ants can nest. Seeds of these and other orchids, such as Coryanthes, often germinate on or near ant nests and seem to require or feed off of the extreme acidity that comes from the formic acid excreted by the ants. It is conceivable that such plants might actually thrive better if ants were allowed to invade them for the summer. Still, you do want to do something about that before bringing the plants inside for the winter.

**COOL IT** - In a mixed collection, there will always be some plants that are experiencing stress in the oppressive heat so characteristic of August. Among the strategies for cooling plants are shade, gentle airflow, and frequent cool mistings. It is your degree of engagement during those stiflingly hot days that will help your struggling orchids get through the worst of the season.

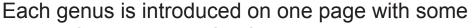
**HOT STUFF** - While most of the intermediate orchids struggle, many warmer-growing orchids take the heat in stride. Fertilize them well and allow them the chance to prosper in the summer heat. Pay attention to your Dendrobiums, Vandas, Catasetums, Brassavolas, and Encyclias, all of which use August for increasing their pseudobulbs.

#### Stuck On Orchids – An AOS Sticker Book

Barb Schmidt Chair – Education Committee

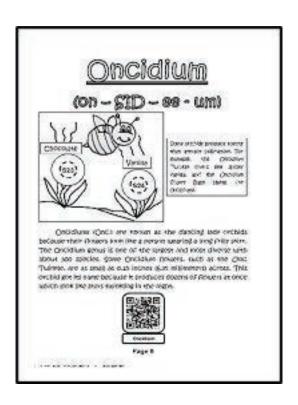
After a year of planning and design with input from many talented people, our AOS sticker book is out for publication. Laura Newton came up with the idea, and it was passed onto the Education Committee for development. I thought it was a fantastic way to engage youth and teach them about orchids.

The sticker book is 16 black and white pages printed on coloring book paper. It has 51 full-color stickers on pages inserted in the back. We chose seven of the more common orchid genera to include in this book: *Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Cymbidium, Oncidium, Vanda, and Dendrobium*.

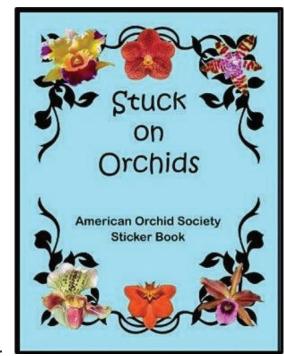


basic information and fun facts. A second page is included for each genus for coloring and more stickers.

There's a QR Code for each genus that links back to each respective Culture Sheet on the AOS website. This will not only provide more information on genus care, but will take the reader to AOS website to see what else we have to offer.



I'm very excited to announce that the books went to the printer in July and should be available for purchase sometime in August. They will sell for \$8.99 for non-AOS members and \$5.99 for AOS members. Please contact me at *jentomsch@hotmail.com* if your society would like to purchase books for your orchid shows. We are happy to offer special discounts for school classrooms or affiliated society orchid shows. Watch for future articles in the "AOS Corner" about Youth Orchid Classes that are currently in development using these books! Grants will be available through the Education Committee to purchase books for these classes.





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 <a href="https://cflorchidsociety.org">https://cflorchidsociety.org</a>





You can support our Society simply by shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. Just go to <a href="http://smile.amazon.com">http://smile.amazon.com</a> 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 judgings, as well as an open forum for questions and discussions. Click on the link below and join in on the fun!! <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/cflorchidsociety">https://www.facebook.com/groups/cflorchidsociety</a>

You shop. Amazon gives.

Membership is now due and can be paid at our meeting with cash, check or credit card and on the website with a credit card. <u>MEMBER SALES</u>
Yearly dues:

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

## Leadership

President: Lori Erlacher
Vice President: Robin Buckler
Treasurer: Nancy Balderson

Cor. Secretary: Vacant

Rec. Secretary: Jeanne Brenan Membership: Sheila Coburn

**Newsletter**: Jeanne Brenan *cfoseditor@aol.com* 

## Board of Directors -

Jerry Steele Jeanne Blankenship Althea Montgomery Cari Johnson

2022 SEPTEMBER							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1 Culture Group 7pm	2	3	
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12 CFOS Member Auction 7pm	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		