

The Houston Happenings



June 2021 | Volume 51, Issue 6

June 3: Fred Clarke Speaks from Experience *By Sarah B*

Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will speak at the June 3, 2021, virtual meeting of Houston Orchid Society. Fred has been

growing orchids for 42 years and hybridizing for 38 of those years. With more than 34 years as a professional grower and manager

in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

Sunset Valley has devoted more than 40 years of breeding to produce hybrids for the orchid hobbyist. They focus on making compact-sized *Cattleyas*—plants that are 12 inches tall at maturity and bloom in 4-inch pots. For growers looking for a great summer bloomer, these hybrid bifoliate *Cattleyas* are highly recommended.

Fred will surely be describing his yellow flowers with red spots and his new line of spotted coerulea crosses. Come on over to our Teams meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, to hear this dynamic and knowledgeable speaker, Fred Clarke.



C. leopoldii
'SVO Dark Wonder' 4n

President's Message *By Bill C*

We shall be meeting virtually again in June for our monthly society meeting. The church will be opening mid June, so if all goes well we shall be meeting at the church in July for our monthly meeting. I hope

everyone is as excited as I am to get off the computer and get back to meeting in person. It will be good to see everyone in person again soon.

Fortunately the judging center meets after the church's opening

date in June, so judging will take place at the church in June. It will be the first orchid event that we shall be able to attend inside the church since March 2020. The June judging will be

continued on page 2



A nonprofit organization established in 1945, HOS is a recipient of the American Orchid Society's Distinguished Affiliated Societies Service award.

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President's, from page 1

a great opportunity to initiate our orchid community's activities at the church. Plan to attend and bring your potential award-winning plants, say hello to folks, and observe the judging process firsthand. Observing the judging process is another opportunity to learn more about orchids in person with people who are very knowledgeable in our society. If you are really intrigued by judging and the training that is involved you may want to join the judging program. Ask any questions of the attending judges as all of them would love to tell you more about the program. See the AOS webinar details on page 3 to get an introduction to the world of becoming an AOS judge.

During the last two months before the church was ready to open, Don G. hosted the monthly judging at his home. Thank you, Don, for allowing the in-person activities to start before the church was ready. Let's keep the momentum going!

See the awards section on page 4 for photos of the awarded flowers from the May judging. I just happened to be one of the lucky exhibitors. As always, a special thanks to Malcolm M., the HJC photographer, who provides the award photos for the newsletter.

We welcome guests at our virtual meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please send an email to info@houstonorchidsociety.org.

All Houston Orchid Society Members Invited . . .

Texas Orchids Speaker's Circuit, Tuesday, June 1, 7 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Luis Hamilton Lima

Topic: Bifoliate Cattleyas

Luiz Hamilton Lima has been an aficionado of *Cattleyas* since age nine, when he cultivated *Cattleya violacea* in a lath house, built by his father, in the backyard of their home in Manaus, Amazon, Brazil.

In his lecture, Luiz reviews some of the most exotic bifoliate *Cattleya* species of Brazil, such as *C. aelandiae*, *C. amethystoglossa*, *C. nobilior*, *C. violacea* and *C. walkeriana*, the latter a very popular compact *Cattleya* in Brazil and in Japan. Luiz focuses on the *Cattleyas'* habitat, climatic conditions and color forms but concentrates on valuable, practical cultivation tips for the more moderate climate growers in the U.S.

Luiz is an aeronautical engineer, MSc. from MIT, and lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and São Paulo, Brazil, with his wife and an extensive *Cattleya* orchid collection. luizhamilton@hotmail.com



Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88678964287>

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Don G Hosts Houston Judging Center *By Marilyn H*

On May 15 Don Ghiz graciously opened his home to a second HJC judging. The fellowship, training and judging have been

uplifting after the long, inactive stretch due to Covid-19.

Nineteen beautiful orchids adorned Don's kitchen island.

Four HCC awards were granted. Congratulations to Meir Moses, Bill Caldwell, and Laurie and Sheila Skov whose orchids won awards! Thanks to everyone who joined us for judging and brought their beautiful orchids.

Please consider joining us on June 19 when we will again meet at First Christian Church. Bring your orchids to show them off and hopefully earn an award.

From the Editor *By Donna D*

Our perfectly stunning April weather has bombed out in May. Here at my soggy parcel in Magnolia, Texas, I measured 8+ inches of rain in the last six days. A friend reminded me that we will be wishing for rain come August, but for now I am ready for

sunshine and am hopeful that my pitiful *Cattleyas*, hanging outside from tree limbs, are more forgiving than I am.

Please notice the stay-at-home *Oncidium* on page 17 that was sent by Malcolm M, who is HOS's official photographer and also furnishes the photos of the judging awardees. I was so taken

by his mammoth-sized *Oncidium* that I decided to figure out why my own few (four, to be exact) are so meager. That led me down the Internet path of research, and hence the culture tips about *Oncidiums* that I compiled from various sources (see page 8). Probably nothing new for the experts, but maybe for us on the newbie side of orchid growing there are some tidbits to consider. I will definitely be moving my four outside after this deluge moves on.

At least the rain has kept me at my desk to try to make the deadline for this newsletter, although the fastest-growing plants in my landscape (weeds) will require my undivided attention for days to come. Happy growing and blooming, weeds and all.

- 10:30 a.m. – Training with Linda Fries, Anita Aldrich, Derek Lowenstein
- 11:30 a.m. – Announcements, housekeeping
- 12 noon – Lunch is each individual's responsibility
- 12:30 p.m. – Regular judging activities to completion

- 11:30 a.m. is the deadline for entering plants for judging

Please note: The monthly meeting of the Houston Judging Center will be held on the third Saturday, June 19, at First Christian Church. Please join us!



You can become an AOS Judge!

For more information, watch the webinar presented by Jean Allen-Ikeson on the AOS website: [An introduction to the wonderful world of becoming an AOS judge.](#)

Houston Judging Center May Awardees



Cattlianthe Rocky Road 'Orchid Konnection Too'
(Ctt. Granata Sunrise x C. Rockette), HCC 76
Presented by Meir Moses, Dallas, Texas

Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale. © 2021 Malcolm McCorquodale, Houston, Texas.

Houston Judging Center May Awardees



Paph. Concon Bell 'Orchid Konnection Too'
(*Paph. Conco-bellatulum* x *Paph. bellatulum*), HCC 76
Presented by Meir Moses, Dallas, Texas

Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale. © 2021 Malcolm McCorquodale, Houston, Texas.

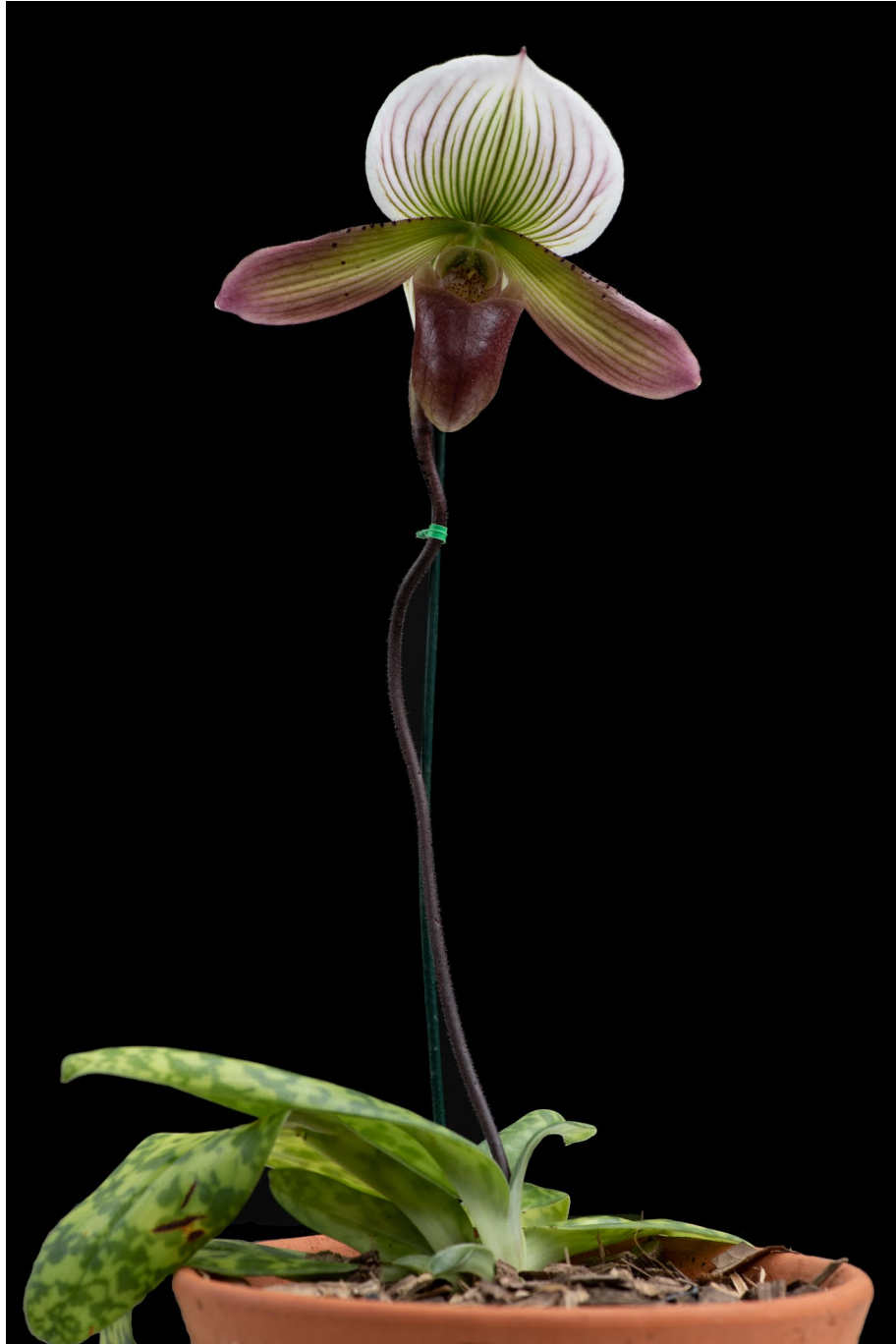
Houston Judging Center May Awardees



C. aclandiae 'La Dolce Vita' (species), HCC 76
Presented by William C.

Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale. © 2021 Malcolm McCorquodale, Houston, Texas.

Houston Judging Center May Awardees



Paph. Petula's Maven 'Liam's Palace'
(*Paph. Presidential Moon* x *Paph. Petula's Pink Delight*), HCC 77
Presented by Laurie and Sheila S., Santa Fe, Texas

Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale. © 2021 Malcolm McCorquodale, Houston, Texas.

Dancing Ladies Do the Cha-Cha *By Donna D*



With an estimated 311 species, *Oncidium* make up a vast group of orchids whose natural habitats include hill scrub, sun-drenched savannas and cooler montane forests. Often called “Dancing Ladies” because of their ruffled “skirts,” *Oncidium* was first described in 1800 by Olof Peter Swartz. Largely epiphytic, the genus is a conglomeration of other distinct species that have been shifted by taxonomists in recent years to new genera or transferred to other genera such as *Cyrtochilum*, *Psychopsis*, *Tolumnia* and *Trichocentrum*.

Oncidium flower spikes, stemming from new growth once the pseudobulb is of mature size, reach to a medium or long length and branch out in various directions with multiple small to fairly large flowers. Flowers are often yellow and usually marked or blotched with red and dark brown.

Footwork for Dancing Ladies

Light — Bright to nearly direct full sun, with those having thicker leaves able to tolerate brighter light.

Temperatures — Intermediate to warm, 55–60°F at night, 80–85°F during the day. Higher temperatures tolerated if humidity and air movement are good.

Watering — More water for plants with large, fleshy roots, less for thin-leaved or thin-rooted plants. Water when the medium is at least halfway dry through the pot.

Fertilization — Twice a month while the plants are actively growing; less often when skies are cloudy and temperatures are cool.

Humidity — 30–60%, somewhat less than other orchids.



Repotting — When new growth is about half mature, usually in the spring. Fine-grade medium for fine-rooted plants; coarse medium for large-rooted plants. Fleshy-leaved and large-rooted plants may be grown on slabs of cork bark or tree fern.

Malcolm M, whose large *Oncidium* appears on page 17, says he acquired the plant a few years ago at an HOS meeting. It did not have a name tag, so he is not certain of its exact ID. It hangs from a tree and gets bright light but no direct sun. He brought it inside during the February freeze. The plant is so dense that he cannot determine what kind of medium it is growing in, but it is probably perched in a plastic basket. He says he fertilizes it occasionally and hits it regularly with the water hose.

Stay-at-Home Orchids



Encyclia alata - Dave H



Cattleya jenmani v. rubra - Dave H

Click Here
to Submit Pictures to
share@houstonorchidsociety.org

Image Guidelines

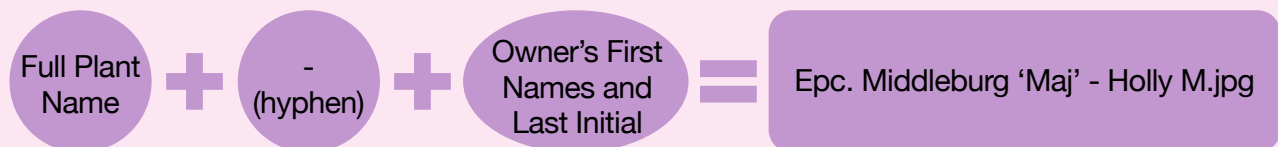
It takes a little time to prepare the images for the newsletter so we need your help. Here are some standards to follow to ensure your image makes it in the publication.

Your image should be at least 1024 pixels wide. Smaller images will be too blurry to be used. If in doubt, rotate your phone sideways (horizontal). Take your photo as close to the flower being photographed as possible, and make sure the flower is in focus.

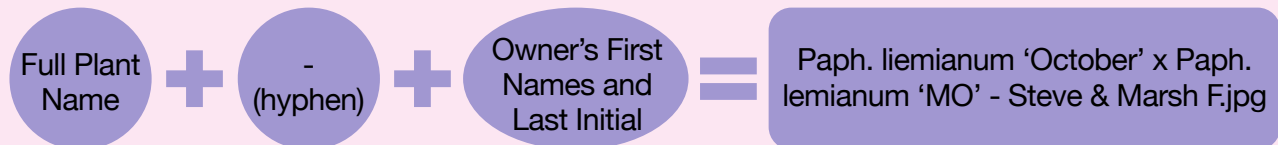
Ensure that you are naming the image file following the guideline below before attaching it to your email. Basically it is the Plant Name + Owner First Name and Last Initial (see examples below).

Send any questions you may have before submitting to info@houstonorchidsociety.org.

Example 1



Example 2



Stay-at-Home Orchids



Cattleya porphyroglossa - Dave H



Cattleya walkeriana - Dave H



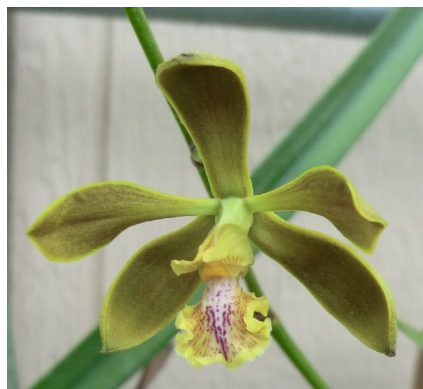
Dendrobium tetragonum v. *alba* - Dave H



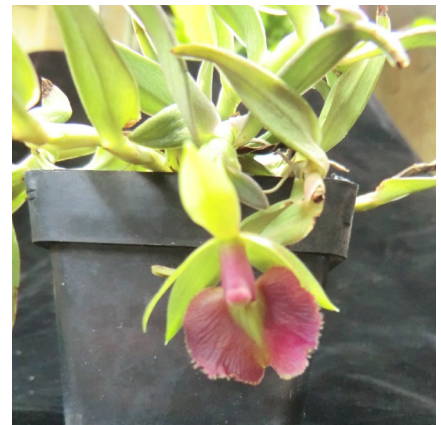
Encyclia Huntj's Hypnotic (plicata x microchila) - Dave H



Encyclia odoratissima - Dave H



Encyclia ionosma - Dave H

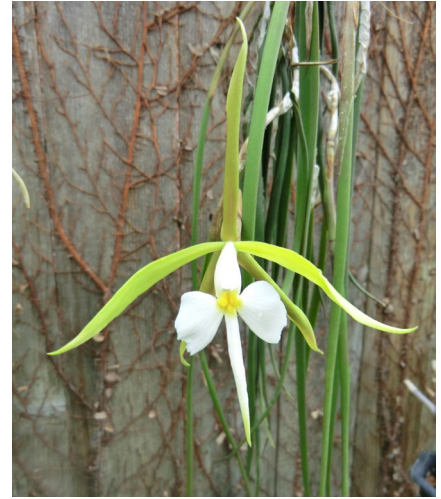


Nanodes (Epidendrum) "Panama Ruby" - Dave H

Stay-at-Home Orchids



Laelia purpurata alba "Reese" - Dave H



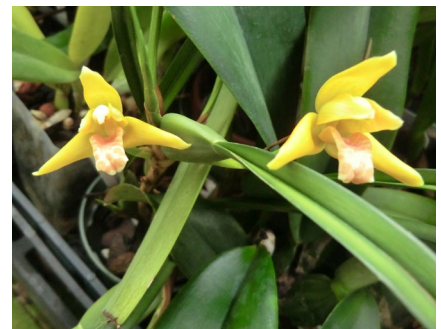
*Epidendrum parkinsonianum -
Dave H*



Laelia purpurata v. striata - Dave H



*Psychopsidea limminghei -
Dave H*



*Maxillaria tenuifloa aurea
"Yamada" AM/AOS - Dave H*

Stay-at-Home Orchids



Seidenfadenia mitrata - Dave H



Encyclia fowliei "Green Clone" - Dave H



Signatostalix graminea - Dave H

**Bromeliad Society
Houston
meets on the
third Tuesday of each month
Visitors welcome
www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org**

**Texas Gulf Coast
Fern Society
meets on the
third Sunday of each month
Visitors welcome
www.tgcfernsociety.org**

Stay-at-Home Orchids



Psh. cochleata 'Mem. Louise Burchett' AM/AOS - Bill C



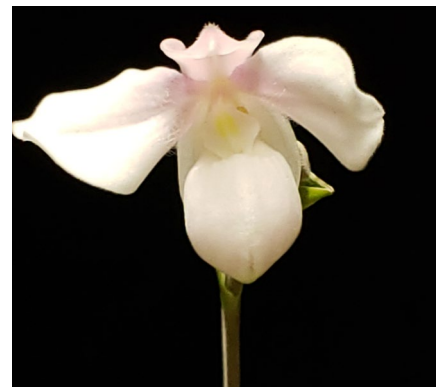
Bc. Denise Ann - Linda WF



Onc. phymatochilum Easter Cloud - Linda WF



Cattleya aclandiae 'Tipo Visto' - Bill C



Phrag. andreettae - Rick H

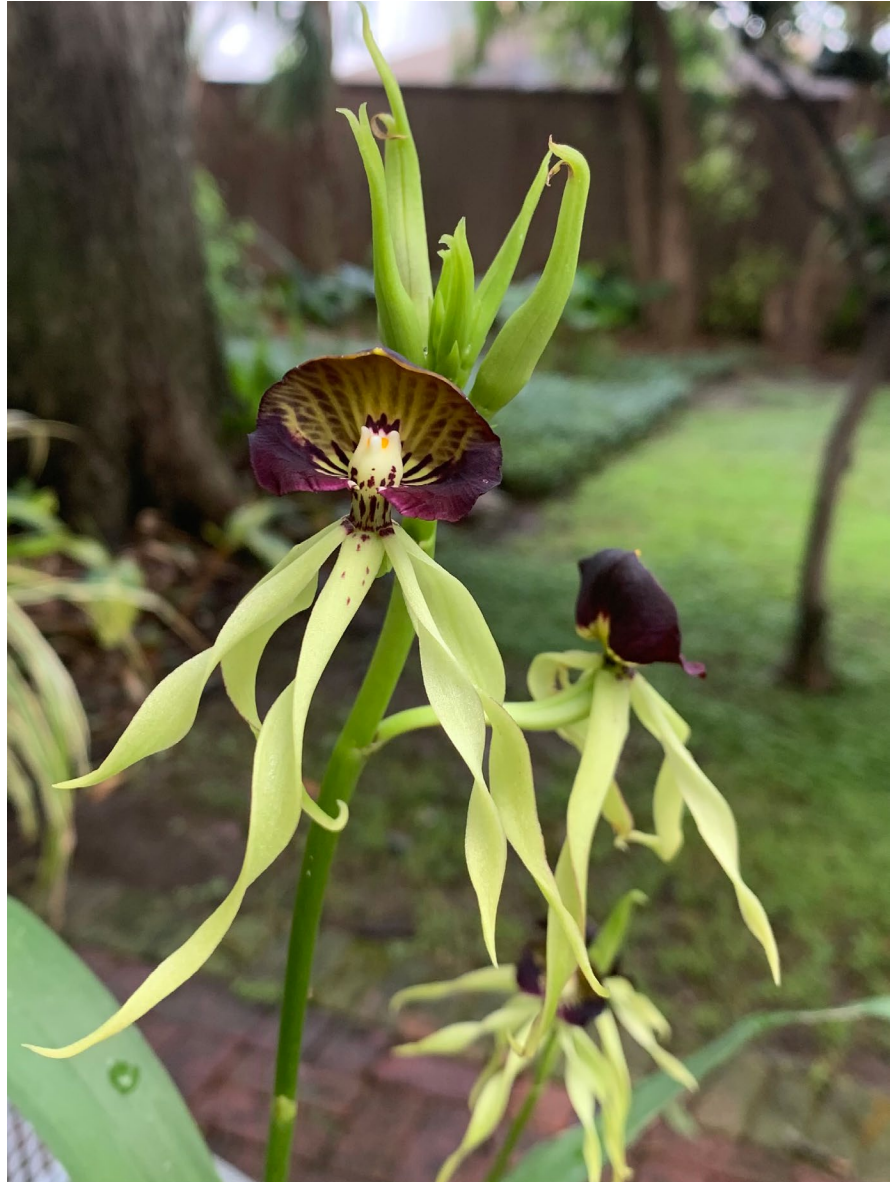
Stay-at-Home Orchids



Epc. Serena O'Neill Lois Duffin -
Linda WF



Paph acomdontum - Rick H



Psh. cochleata 'Perfect Balance' FCC/AOS - Bill C



Stay-at-Home Orchids



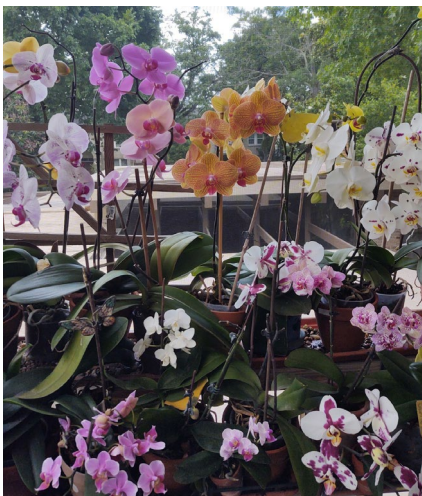
C. purpurata - Jay B



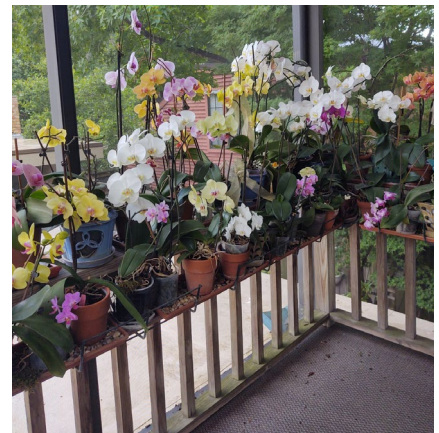
Enc. cochleata - Jay B



Phrag. Albopurpureum - Rick H



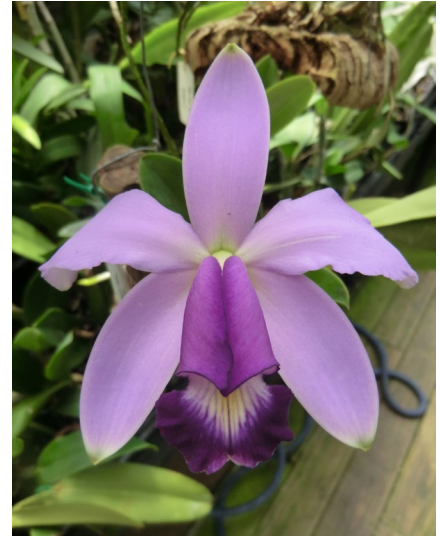
Phals. (NOID) on the upstairs balcony of an HOS member who nurses her gifted orchids in the perfect environment - CMW



Stay-at-Home Orchids



Bulbo. *Phalaenopsis* - Jay B



Cattleya violacea coerulea -
Dave H



Phals. (NOID) - CMW

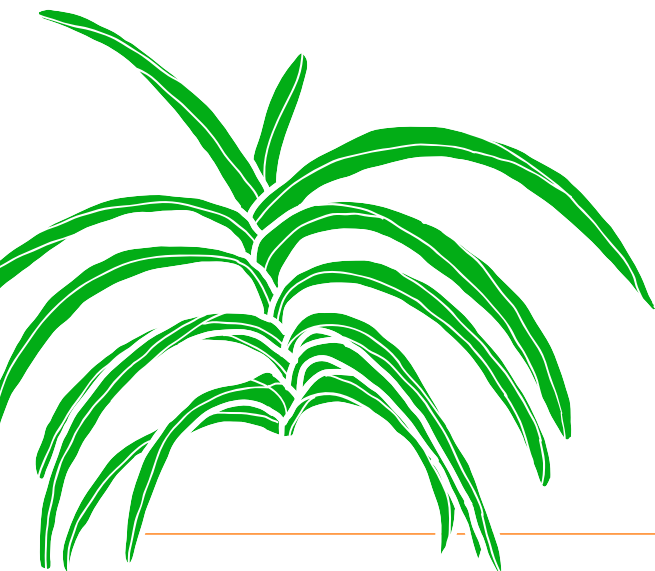


Brassavola perrinii - Dave H

Stay-at-Home Orchids



Oncidium (NOID) - Malcolm M



Stay-at-Home Orchids



Paph. Hilo Black Eagle 'Dolly Dagger' - Rick H



Phal. mannii - Linda WF



Paph. volonteatum - Rick H

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 TOC meeting, 7 pm (online)	2	3 HOS meeting, 7:30 pm (online)	4	5 Alamo Judging Ctr (no judging in June)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Dallas Judging Ctr, 10:30 am, Garland Sr Activity Ctr
13	14	15	16	17	18 June newsletter content due	19 Houston Judging Ctr, 10:30 am, First Christian Church
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Louisiana Judging Ctr, 11 am, Rapides Parish Library Westside, Alexandria
27	28	29	30			
<p>We welcome guests at our virtual meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please send an email to info@houstonorchidsociety.org.</p>						



**AOS Webinar:
What Makes a Good Orchid Show Exhibit?
(members only)**

Marc Burchette
Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 7:30 p.m. CDT
A topic that many have asked about. What makes a good exhibit? What are judges looking for when you set up your exhibits? Join Marc Burchette to find out! [Register now.](#)



AOS Greenhouse Chat

Ron McHatton
Thursday, June 17, 2021, 7:30 p.m. CDT
Grow your knowledge and join AOS Education and Science Officer Ron McHatton for a fun-filled hour of orchid questions and answers. Send questions by June 15 to greenhousechat@aos.org. [Register now.](#)