

Greater Akron Orchid Society

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society & the Mid-American Orchid Congress

June 2020

President

Jane Bush

Vice President

Darlene Thompson

Treasurer

Claudia Englert

Secretary

Lore Yu

Editor

**Brandon
Spannbauer**

Trustee

Dave Miller

Minutes of May Meeting

If you missed last month's Zoom meeting or want a refresher, Dave Miller's "Orchids Under Glass" is now available on the GAOS website: www.thegaos.com

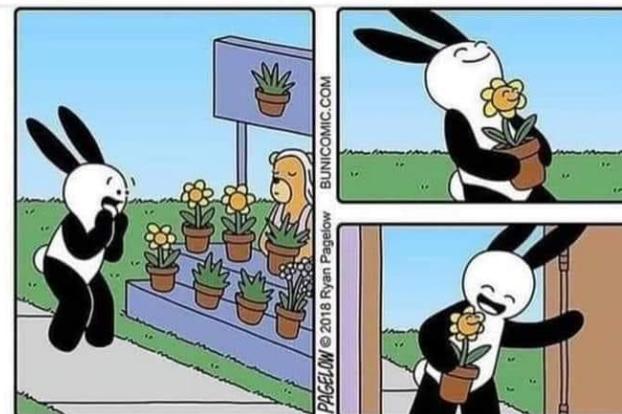
GAOS June Meeting Goes Online!

The June GAOS meeting will be online, hosted by Dave Miller and Darlene Thompson with guest speaker Erik Sauer. Anyone who is interested will be able to participate in the meeting or just view it from home using your personal computer, smart TV or smart phone.

Our meeting will be from 7 to 8:30 pm on Monday, June 8 with people able to join the meeting as early as 6:15 pm where we will chat and answer questions until the meeting starts officially at 7 pm.

More info below.

Upcoming Business



Posted in r/Trichocereus by u/Cactusjerk



Next Meeting

Our June meeting will be online using Zoom with our special speaker Erik Sauer, info below and detailed instructions on how to view and/or participate in the meeting will follow in an email in the next few days.

Website: www.thegaos.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theGAOS

Email: greaterakronorchidsociety@gmail.com

President's Corner

By Jane Bush



Greetings!

Sadly, we will not be meeting in person again in June as large group meetings are still not authorized. Even if directives change, our board did not want to chance the safety of our members with a large group meeting so soon.

Now, the good news is that Darlene, our vice president, is working on an exciting guest presentation for our June Zoom meeting. Check the rest of the newsletter for details and be sure to join us on June 8 starting at 6:30 for sign-in. Also, if you have an orchid that is blooming, be sure to submit a picture of it for our Zoom show table.

Lore has suggested a special project activity to keep us connected during the COVID-19 battle. Watch your email for more details as we work out plans. If you have a suggestion, please email me at bushjj@juno.com or text me at 440-429-5779.

Until we can meet again in person, stay safe and enjoy your orchid hobby. Even when my orchids aren't blooming, I get excited when I see new growth. One small plant shot out 2 new growths and I gave it the MVP award for the week.

TIDBIT: We have one more 40+ degree night Sunday, May 3; then, the nights will be 50 degrees or high so by June 1, it will be safe to put your orchids out for the summer. Check Dave's Plant Stand under Education on www.thegaos.com for some ideas for outdoor growing.

Meeting Schedule

GAOS meets the second Monday of each month (except December) Beginner's Corner starts at 6:45pm and the meeting at 7:15pm, at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center, 725 Portage Lakes Dr., Akron, Ohio 44319

Members are encouraged to bring orchids from their collection for exhibit. **All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to attend.**

Jun 8	ONLINE, Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids Erik Sauer
Jul 13	TBD Edgar Stehli
Aug 10	Member Plant Auction



Photo of the Month: Sophronitis wittigiana Photo © Jose Benelli

Website Revamp and Virtual Orchid Tours

With our meeting(s) cancelled until further notice we have been working on improving our website with education, presentations and articles to give us something to tide us over until we can all meet again. If you have anything interesting of that nature, or find it online, please send it to me to be added, braxtonds@gmail.com. I'm acquiring presentations from members as well as scouring the internet for useful and helpful orchid related information and have added them to the website. I have also added a Resources tab which contains links to many great orchid websites and vendors.

<https://thegaos.com/education>

(Check out Dave's Plant Stand setup presentation for inspiration)

<https://thegaos.com/resources>

If you have other ideas for staying connected, reach out the Brandon (braxtonds@gmail.com) or me (Darlenejthompson@gmail.com). We would like to hear how you want to stay connected.

You can also do a little safe shopping. Contact Kim and Edgar at Windswept in Time (<https://windsweptorchids.com/>) and Wayne and Nancy at Robert's Flowers Supply (<http://www.orchidmix.com/>). They are both full stocked and can figure out the best way options to shop safely and in compliance with our local regulations.

New York Garden's Virtual Orchid Show:

<https://www.nybg.org/take-a-virtual-tour-of-the-orchid-show-jeff-leathams-kaleidoscope/>

Visit the virtual orchid show table on Facebook! We invite you to post pictures of your blooming plants or growing areas on Facebook at any time.

<https://www.facebook.com/theGAOS/>

Make a post our page, feel free to add photos and a description of your orchid. To view other's flowers, click the 'Community' tab on the left of the screen or follow the link below. Here, you can view what others are posting, ask questions or strike up a conversation.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/theGAOS/community/>

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the Greater Akron Orchid Society. The page header includes the Facebook logo, the name 'Greater Akron Orchid Society', and a search bar. Below the header, there are options to 'Like', 'Follow', and 'Share'. The main content area features a 'Write a post...' box and a 'Photo/Video' button. The 'Photos' section displays a grid of images, including a large purple orchid and a display of various orchids. The right sidebar shows a 6.0 rating, community information, and location details.

GAOS ONLINE

Our June meeting will be Online. Here are the details on how to enter the meeting (this info will also be emailed to you so you can follow the links that way).

You can use your Windows PC, Mac, iPhone or Android phone to connect and participate in the meeting. Preferred equipment will be speakers and a microphone but members have connected using only phone or computer screen and no camera attached. People have found it beneficial to test their equipment prior to the meeting so if you have questions contact Dave Miller at 330-307-7189 or dcmjpsmil@aol.com or Darlene Thompson at 901-210-5502 or darlenejthompson@gmail.com.

The meeting will open early at 6:15 pm to allow everyone plenty of time to connect to the Zoom Conference room we are using. You can text or email either of us if you have trouble connecting using the information below. The actual meeting content will start at 7 pm and end at approximately 8:30 pm.

Agenda

6:15 to 7:00 Sign-in and Chat
7:00 to 7:15 Greetings and Show Table with Darlene
7:15 to 8:15 Phragmipedium Species and Their Hybrids
8:15 to 8:30 Q&A All About Orchids

Dave Miller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Contact Dave for questions about the Zoom meeting at 330-307-7189 text or dcmjpsmil@aol.com

Topic: Greater Akron Orchid Society for June
Time: Jun 8, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

(Easy One-Click Join Meeting Link Below)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8709108597>

Phragmipedium Species and Hybrids

Erik Sauer

Eric Sauer of [River Valley Orchids](#) will be joining us to talk about the wonderful genus of Phragmipedium. His talk will cover Phragmipedium species and some notable hybrids. Plus he will share culture tips with us! Although we will not be together, Eric is taking orders from members to be delivered by mail. His plant list is attached to this email, and you can contact him directly. Eric specializes in Slippers and Maxillaria. Please contact him if you have any questions or are looking for something specific.

Phragmipedium Species and a few of Their Hybrids

Phragmipediums, or the Central and South American Lady Slippers are a relatively small Genus of orchids which produce some of the most spectacular flowers. Flowers range from small pink flowers less than an inch across, to flowers larger than a dollar bill to petals that are nearly three feet long! We will discuss the species and some of the more interesting hybrids and discuss their culture.

Eric's Bio

Eric has been growing orchids for 30 years and specializes in South American Species. He has spoken internationally and across the United States. Eric recently had a culture chapter published with Guido Braem in his book on Paphiopedilums and his book on Phragmipediums. He also has several of his Maxillaria photos published in Eric Christenson's book on Maxillaria. Eric has received over 85 awards from the American Orchid Society and has three orchids named after him including two species from Ecuador. He regularly works with other Maxillaria aficionados around the world to better understand the genus. Eric's real job is as a registered landscape architect and is the planning manager for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio

How Do Your Orchids Grow - Meet a Member

with Dave Miller

1. When and How were you introduced to orchids and the hobby?

I started growing orchids around 2000 and would put them under the office lights where I worked. After a few years, I needed to find people who would help me do better. I chose the GAOS and went to the spring show to meet some of the members. Meeting Barb Ford and Paul Bujak at the show convinced me GAOS was the place to join.

2. What type of environment do you grow in (under lights, greenhouse, Windows, etc.)?

I have always grown under lights. I had very large windows in my previous home but for the last ten years have only used lights. I put about 2/3 of my collection outside for the summer.

3. What have you found to be the most rewarding and the most challenging about orchids?

The diversity of growing needs. Also, the diversity of flowers and foliage is limitless. I think I appreciate watching the buds grow almost as much as seeing the actual flowers. Watching the emerging flower spikes always notes success to any grower.

4. What are the top 3 things people should know to be successful growers?

Ask questions and get help from people whom you would like to grow like. Watch your roots as they really determine growing a good orchid. Grow orchids that fit your space and light.

5. What are your top 3 must have or must-see orchids - whether you own one or are you are on the hunt for one?

Paphiopedilum Magic Lantern. All Catasetums and related. Bulbophyllum cupreum.



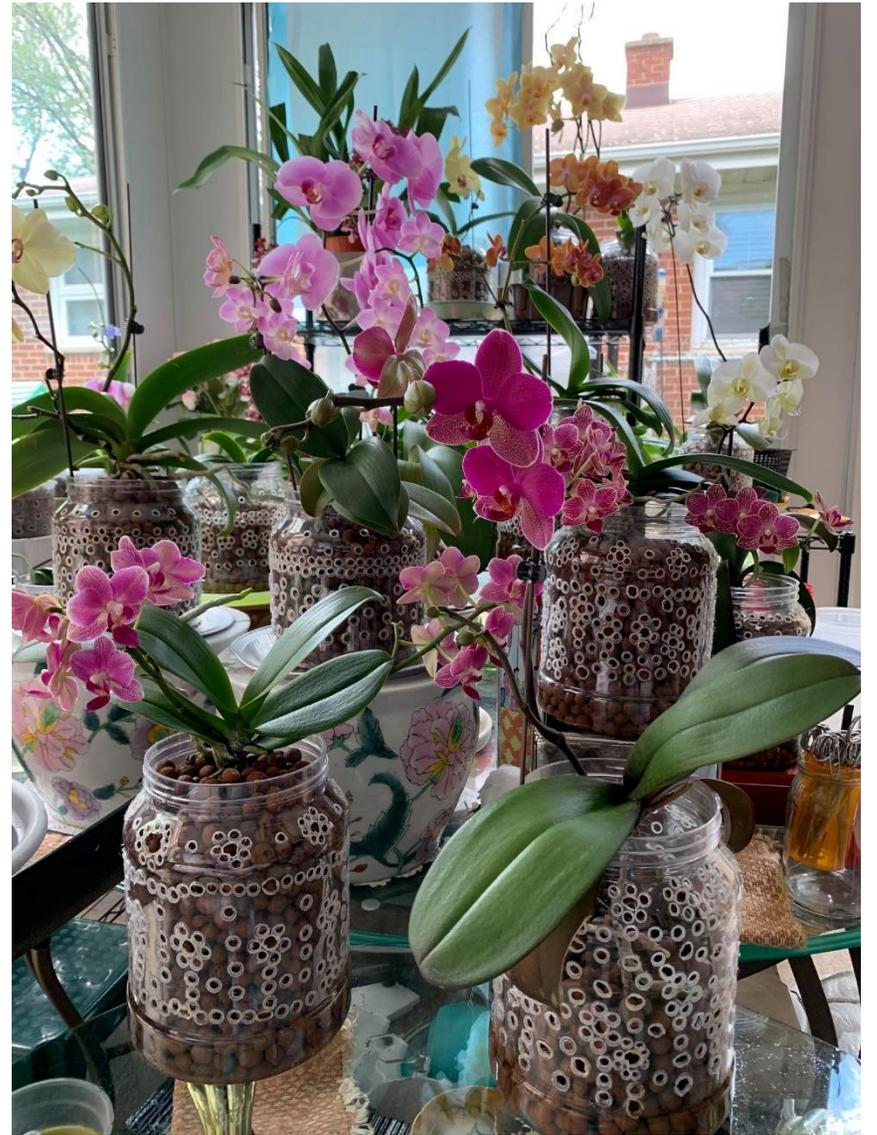
6. Photos

Dave in the plant room
Dave's outdoor orchid stand
Paph. Magic Lantern
Bulb. cupreum
Daveara curiosia



If you would like to be featured in a member segment, we'd love to learn how you grow orchids! Please contact Brandon: braxtonds@gmail.com for an easy to fill out questionnaire. Thanks!

Phalaenopsis growing in plastic containers with LECA –
Dorothy Hui



Facebook Post

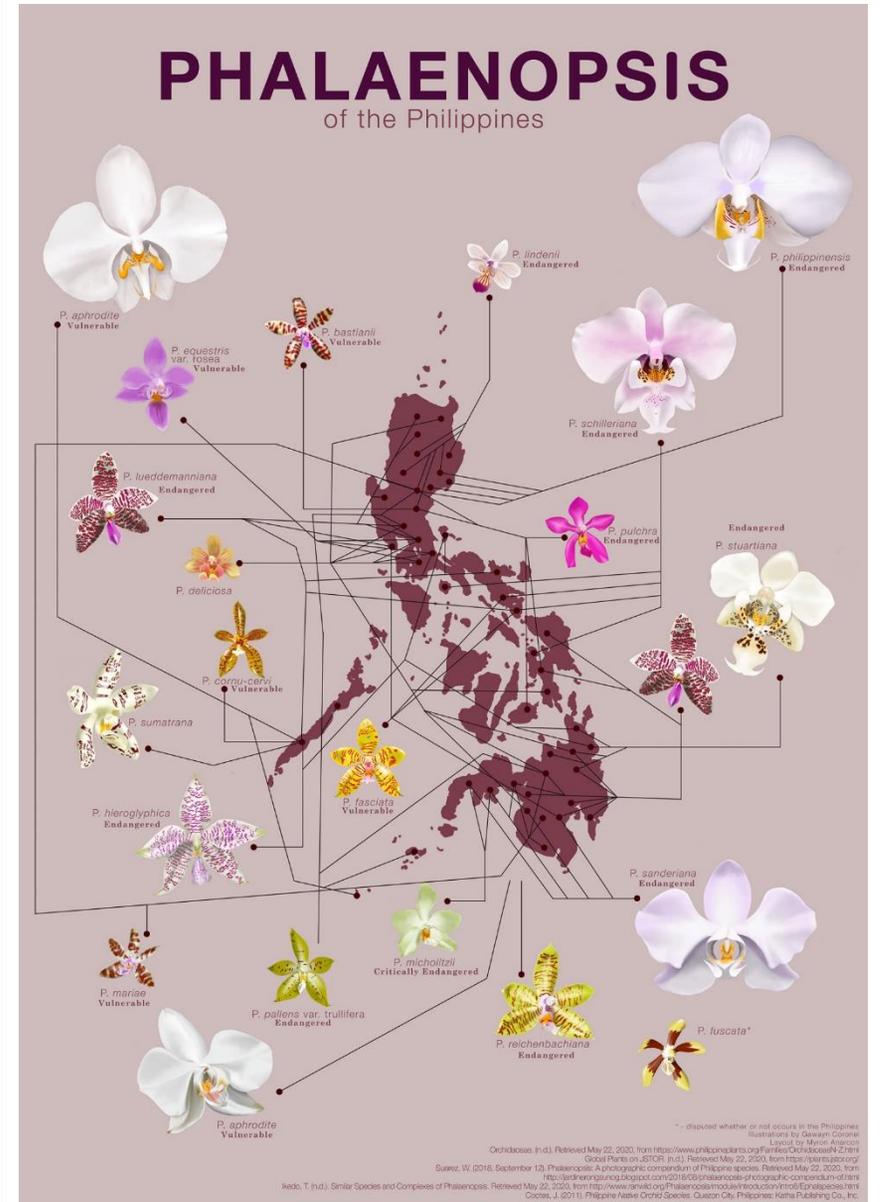
by Youth Advocates for Climate Action – Philippines

Globally, we see how habitat loss brought about by tourism and other recreational activities is the major threat to loss of biodiversity in general, and for orchid species as well. The Philippines, recognized as one of the 17 mega biodiversity countries, is also heavily affected by biodiversity loss because of anthropogenic activities.

The Philippines is home to 141 genera of orchids, with around 1,100 species of orchids. While overcollecting for the nursery trade is often blamed for the loss of our orchids, habitat destruction is a much larger threat to our orchid biodiversity. Loss of habitat brought about by systemic and large-scale logging and mining operations have devastated orchid biodiversity in neighboring countries, and with the current destructive practices of the industries here in the Philippines, we can only imagine the extent of the damage done to our local species.

On the other hand, overcollection of our endemic orchid species has its roots in international demand and export. The large size, beauty, and fragrance of the flowers have led to a demand for these "exotic" plants in the world market. This in turn led to local overcollection, to the point of extinction in the wild, as is the case of the sanggumay or *Dendrobium anosmum giganteum*. Other species such as the *Phalaenopsis micholitzii*, originally an endemic Philippine species, are now found only in Taiwan as the last plants of this orchid species were shipped out from the Philippines in the early 90s.

With all the threats our orchid biodiversity is currently facing, we must amp up our conservation efforts in order to protect our country's rich biodiversity. We must invest in research to study and protect our natural resources, and put a stop to the destructive large-scale logging and mining operations in our country. These large-scale and foreign operations not only destroy our rich biodiversity, but also displace and steal the lands of our environment defenders, which we should never allow.



Orchid Fever as 10-Year Quest Finally Unlocks Queen of Sheba's Secret

by Emma Young (Sydney Morning Herald)

Orchid hunters are a real group of people, and Western Australia is one of the best places in the world to be one – especially when one of the world's most rare and spectacular specimens is primed for a comeback.

The orchid family is the largest plant family in the world with 25,000 species, but the greatest diversity of species is in only a few spots globally, according to Kings Park orchid conservation scientist Belinda Davis.



One of these is the biodiversity hotspot that is WA's South West. The state is home to almost 400 orchid species, nearly three-quarters of which are endemic, meaning they don't occur anywhere else. Of those, 77 are of conservation concern. One of the rarest is the Queen of Sheba, the holy grail for orchid people – colourful characters, according to Dr Davis. There are the Facebook groups full of the "orchid hunters", who have bumper stickers for their cars and meet up in bushland areas.

Dr Davis sees them on her field trips and chats with them – though laws actually prevent her sharing information with them about the precise locations of protected species. "It's like bird-watching.

There have been books written about the fever, the fervency," she said. "When something starts flowering, word gets out and it's time to go and see this or that.

"Once while on a field trip I met someone who had flown in from Scotland to see a particular flower. "And when the Queen of Sheba (*Thelymitra speciosa*) starts flowering, a wildfire response goes through the community." It takes increasing commitment to see the Queen of Sheba, though.

It used to be found throughout Perth and the south coast, but due to habitat clearing, only small populations remain around Bunbury and then Albany, with a few scattered towards Esperance. But it's not just its rarity that fires people up. "In the orchid world there are not many others like it, it's like a fever comes over people," Dr Davis said. "This orchid is the only orchid that looks the way that it does in all of Australia.

"It's got a very unusual flower ... as if someone got paint and painted the most crazy flower they could think of, purple and pink with dark purple spots, and petals outlined with this bright yellow-gold." Its looks and its strange name drew people to seek it out in the wild; this in itself was now a threat. It was so highly prized people went everywhere to go see it and might potentially walk over its habitat, and like anything endangered, it has also suffered some poaching.

But its beauty and its fame, while increasing its danger, have also made it a "poster child" for conservation, though a fiendishly difficult and mysterious one. Conservation of threatened flora relies on scientists being able to collect seeds and achieve high lab germination rates that allow them to create new populations in the wild. But despite a decade of work from Dr Davis and colleagues across Australia, the Queen has eluded such efforts.

Ground-dwelling WA orchids are tricky anyway because of their reliance not only on seeds but on a "fungal partner" – they all have highly specific requirements for such a partner to act as the root network to forage for soil nutrients, without good root systems themselves.

Germination attempts over the past 10 years had never yielded more than a handful of mature plants – a very low success rate, Dr Davis said.

For a long time, people in the field had thought it simply impossible for this species.

Then a chance conversation Dr Davis had last year with her Royal Botanic Gardens of Melbourne counterpart Noushka Reiter at the national orchid conference led to fresh determination.

She and Dr Reiter teamed up with Albany orchid enthusiast and seed collector Keith Smith to collect the seed from a population in Albany and went hell for leather in a whirlwind of seeds, fungi, growing media, nutrients and warring propagation techniques.

“A lot of petri dishes and a lot of time,” Dr Davis said. “From the point of sowing to seeing plants we are talking a three-month timeframe to see if you succeeded.”

Finally, they cracked the Sheba’s secret: the nutrient requirement to support the meeting of the fungus and the seed.

Not only did they have to approximate the soil conditions, they also had to provide a little food for the seed itself, contrary to normal thinking in orchid propagation in which the fungus provides the food for the seed.

“We had to provide what they both needed,” Dr Davis said. “This is big news. This will be the first time we’ve been able to propagate in great numbers the Queen of Sheba. “Now we have cracked that, we can look at getting them back out into the bush.”

So one day soon it might not just be the most intrepid hunters who get to meet the Queen: with a little more luck and work she might appear in a Kings Park display, and continue her role as conservation poster child – but now as a success story.



Lab-grown seedlings flowering among the Kings Park seed orchard, from which the researchers can harvest seed without impacting wild plants.



Photo Gallery

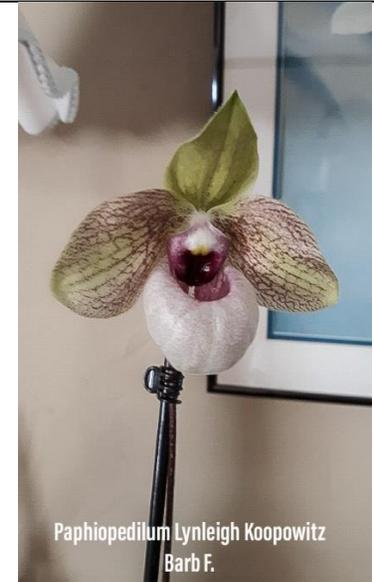
Home Displays
May 2020



Schoenorchis fragrans
Lore Y



Mini Phal
Susan B



Paphiopedilum Lynleigh Koopowitz
Barb F.



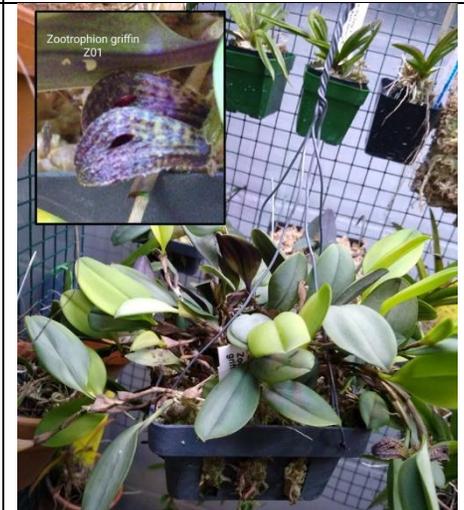
Blc. Mari's Glory 'H+R'
Dean P.



Ctism. Joseito's Moonlight
C19



Tolu. Jairak Rainbow
'Hot Pink' T80



Zootrophion griffin
Z01



Blc Haw Yuan Rose
Brandon S.



Epc Rene Marques
Brandon S



Pleione Snow Monkey
Brandon S



Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Scheherazade' AM/AOS
Pam E



Pap. Hsyinying Mishima 'Chn#5'
Pam E



Phalaenopsis. 'Patches' (right) Phalaenopsis 'Abby' (left)
Pam E



Cycnoches warcewiczii 'Giant Swan'
Chester



Phrag. sargentianum
Pam E





Paphiopedilum Brandy's Brocade



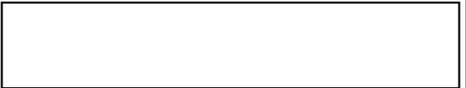
Zygopetalum Rhein Down x Midnight Jack
Jane



Paphiopedilum delenatii
Darlene



Phrag Patti MacHale
Darlene



Dendrobium Fire Wing
Jane B



Dendrobium tetragonum
Darlene

