

New Orleans Orchid Society's Newsletter



February 2021

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Vice-President: Sara Duarte
Secretary: Ann Ebert
Treasurer: Gayle Dellinger
Past President:
Newsletter Editor: Larry Hennessey
Website Editor: Debbie Dinwiddie
Board of Trustees: Pat Herbert
Carol Stauder
Clarine Usher

Upcoming Orchid Shows & Events

Baton Rouge Orchid Society Monthly Zoom Meeting

February 17, 2021 7pm

Larry Hennessey - Bulbophyllums

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84429275132>

Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show

February 26- 28, 2021

Gautier Convention Center

2012 Library Lane

Gautier, MS 39553

President Message Redistributed from email dated December 2, 2020

Hello All,

Let me thank all 24 of you who responded 'Approved' concerning the 2021 NOOS elections. Since this is all that participated, I accept it as valid. Also, thanks to Gayle Dellinger for volunteering to take over as Treasurer. I accept her as part of the Board as per those who have Approved.

I cannot force members to click on the Return/Read Receipt button after getting these emails so I am not aware of who might not be getting them. The email list is from the database that Ann Ebert keeps for membership. If anyone lets you know that they are not receiving these emails, please let me or Ann know ASAP.

Our NOOS Zoom meeting attracted about 14 members (me included as the only male). It seems no one has any suggestions on what else we can do during this pandemic and I'm pretty much out of ideas. I will still try to have NOOS Zoom meetings on our regular 3rd Tuesdays for anyone who wants to attend. If you have any plants blooming that you wish to show, please collect them and share. If you have any plants that you are having trouble with, include those, too, so we can maybe help. If the plant is too big to move, take a snapshot of it and share the picture.

We do not at this time have plans for a 2021 show. If anyone feels the urge to volunteer as Show Chair, please let me know. Not sure what the New Year will bring but it would be good to be prepared.

Stay safe,
Russel Deroche, Jr.

Zeuxine strateumatica Wild terrestrial orchids blooming in New Orleans lawns

If you look carefully you may see some small white orchids blooming in your lawns this month. *Zeuxine strateumatica* grows throughout the Gulf Coast region of the United States as a weed in southern lawns. Its common names are lawn orchid or soldier orchid. It comes originally from Asia and is believed to have been introduced into the United States via shipments of centipede grass seed from China back in the 1920s.

Zeuxine strateumatica's native habitat is the grasslands of Asia but it has naturalized in lawns across all of southeastern United States from Texas to Florida. Technically, it is a sympodial perennial terrestrial orchid with a creeping rhizome and erect lateral branches but in our subtropical climate it acts more like an annual weed. It is considered a weed since it has naturalized into lawns and agricultural fields.



Flowers are small (only 1/8" to 1/4" across). They are white with a yellow lip. The flowers are tubular and are arranged in a spiral on the inflorescence. The plants are green when found in shade but appear bronze when growing in full sunlight as the ones found in my lawn and my neighbors lawn.

A word of warning, I sprayed weed killer for the winter weeds in my lawn back in November so I have just a few small ones. My neighbor obviously didn't spray because he has dozens of them all across his lawn. Another reason you may not see any is competition from other winter weeds or cutting your grass when *Zeuxine strateumatica* has sprouted but not yet blooming.

