

June 1, 2020 Zoom Meeting – Final

6:00 PM – Culture Class Roy Krueger

6:30 PM Business Meeting Marta Hudson started the meeting by welcoming everyone from the Sarasota Orchid Society.

I. Scholarship Recipients - Monroe Kokin Memorial Sarasota Orchid Society Scholarship

Sierra Smith and Charles Foster each received a check for \$1000. This award was awarded to them as the finalists, while many other students applied for this grant. After extensive interviews Sara & Charles were the students whom best meet the selection criteria aligned with SOS Vision and mission. Both have excellent GPA's and both will continue with studies in programs such as Agriculture, Plant Biology and or Botany. In addition to the check, they also received their first orchid, a keiki, from Monroe's Collection. Meeting our principals, Learning Growing & Showing, they will take care of these new plants and will return to SOS to show us how they are doing.

Sierra Smith: is an outstanding 2020 graduate from Venice High with a 3.68 unweighted GPA and a 4.68 weighted GPA. For the past two years she was dually enrolled at the State College of Florida achieving a 3.58 GPA and earning an AA degree. Sierra will enter the University of South Florida in Tampa in Landscape Architecture as a junior in the fall. It is a 4 year program with a combined BS degree and Masters.

In her goal statement she said "I believe that Florida is in need of a landscape overhaul...as many current plants used in landscaping do not benefit Florida's natural ecosystem. My goal is to incorporate more native plants in landscaping to create beautiful scenery but also help the wildlife."

As a Girl Scout for many years, she was involved in many community projects. Some of them revolved around helping the homeless. Gardening and art are other interests that Sierra finds fulfilling. She has received local recognition for her artwork at the Venice Art Show and Ringling College of Art and Design.

Charles Foster: a 2020 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School, has been selected as a recipient of the Monroe Kokin Memorial Sarasota Orchid Society Scholarship. Charles has been in scouting since the first grade and recently earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. He is also chapter chief of the Order of the Arrow (National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America) Oscan Tustenuggee Chapter. He has been a member of the National Honor Society at Cardinal Mooney and the Band/Violin Ensemble. He is also an altar server at his family's church. In his spare time, he has

maintained a 174-container bucket garden using bio-friendly fertilizer and natural pesticides. During the last two summers, Charles has participated in student science training programs at the University of Florida. He was awarded the Florida Alliance Scholar for research on the resistance of an 8th generation hybrid pepper plant to root-knot nematodes. In the fall, Charles will attend the University of Florida to major in Entomology and Nematology. He is very concerned about the decline of indigenous pollinators and plans to eventually earn his PhD in hopes of working on the development of environmentally friendly methods of pest control in hopes of saving wild indigenous honeybees.

II. Bylaws Proposal

- a. Overview of mayor changes by Laurie Stoner We had our Annual Organizational Board Meeting' and at the meeting, we discussed the proposed Bylaws which were approved. Then, via email it was sent to the entire membership for review and comments to be addressed tonight.
- b. No comments received by members. Marta asked for a motion to move forward with the proposed changes. Jill Lopez seconded; No one opposed it, so the motion passed and approved.

III. **Word of the month: Orchidarium:** An enclosure, specifically for the cultivation of orchids. An area in a park or botanical garden dedicated to orchids

IV. **Quote of the month:** Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. Francis of Assisi

V. Workshop... June 6, at Palmers

Susan Gerhardt gave an overview of the past workshop at Plantio la Orquidea and invited everyone to the upcoming 2 sessions to take place on June 6th at Palmers. Cathy Lewis and Susan will lead the workshop and a hand full of supporter hands will be there to help.

VI. **AOS free webinars.** <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx> **Next June 11th, 8:30pm - Best Practice for Growing Paphs**

VII. **Next Board Meeting: June 15th Via Zoom**

VIII. **Next Monthly Meeting: July 6th - TBA**

7:00 PM Virtual Display Table Presentation with Roy Krueger

7:30 PM Virtual Tour of Member's growing area

Larry Desiano & Susan Gerhardt

8:30 - PM Door prize announced with Jill Lopez the winner

Marta Adjourned the meeting and thanked all again for the amazing cooperation and hard work and willingness to explore the "new normal" standards and adapting to the

unknown with ease. Marta asked for a round of applause to all those members, behind the scenes, that have made this “virtual meeting” so fun and delightful.

Please stay safe and healthy, and God Bless you!