

Central Jersey Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2026

President's Message

Hello, Orchid Slayers!

November is here, the temperatures are dropping, and our orchids are reminding us that winter is coming! It's time to pay a little extra attention to watering, humidity, lighting, and temperatures as we transition into the colder months.

This month, we're excited to welcome **William (Bill) Stender from the Lehigh Valley Orchid Society** as our guest speaker. We're looking forward to learning from his experience and picking up some new tips to keep our orchids happy and thriving.

A Call for Volunteers!

We'll also be selecting chairs for several club positions and committees. Those chairs will then be choosing members to assist with their respective groups. This is a great opportunity to get involved, share your ideas, and help our society continue to grow. Please consider volunteering! Remember, many hands make light work, and we promise no one will be asked to repot the entire club's collection!

Holiday Party Reminder!

Our annual holiday party is next month! If you haven't submitted your payment yet, please take care of it so we can finalize our plans. We hope everyone can join us for a fun evening of food, friendship, and orchid conversation.

As always, bring your blooming orchids, questions, and even those troublesome plants to share. There's always something new to learn from one another.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and participate in our society. It's the people behind the plants who make this club special.

See you at the meeting!

Chris
President, Central Jersey Orchid Society

Happy Growing, Orchid Slayers!

Orchids of the month



Den Kruger Hek 'Halle Jean' – Joe Thomas



Phal Equestris V Coerulea – Joe Thomas

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Pages 9-15 Amber Lai (Taida Orchids) Oct. Speaker

Meeting Location
Trinity Church 33 Mercer St,
Princeton, NJ 08540-6893

Meetings and Events 2023

Arrive at 6:30.
Meeting will start at 7:00PM
Meetings are held the **Third Thursday** of the month.

September 26: - Picnic

October 15: - Amber Lai (Taida Orchids)
"Rooted in Taiwan: The Journey of the Phalaenopsis to America."

November 19: - Bill Stender – Orchid Viruses

December 17: 2026: Holiday Party

January 21: - Kristen Uthus
New World Orchids
Miniature orchids

February 18: - Carlos Macku

March 18: TBA

April 15: - TBA

May 20: - TBA

June: TBA Picnic

Officers and Committees:

President – Chris Bevins

Vice President – George Wallace

Treasurer/Membership – Matt Pagano

Corresponding/Recording Secretary –Danielle Gordon

Editor Newsletter - Ed Frankel
CJOSnewsletter@gmail.com

George Wallace – Web Master

Jeff Tyron – CJOS Photographer

Some Cards and Pictures were missing. If you have additional info please send to editor

Cattleya



1. **Cat Pot. Hsinying Doll "Hsinying" - Pam and Ed Frankel**



2. **Cat. BLC Waikiki Gold "Lea" – Jim Murtha**

VANDA/PHAL



1. **Phal Violaacea V Indigo x self – Joe Thomas**



2. **Phal Equestris V Coerulea – Joe Thomas**

Species







I looked up the spelling of the plants on the papers and couldn't find a matching picture
Den Convulatum – Joe Thomas 1 st

Epi Porpax alba – Joe Thomas 3rd
2nd ? No paper

Paph/Phrag

1. **Paph spicerianum – Joe Thomas**





2. **Phrag Pearcii - Joe Thomas**

Den./Onc.

1. ?



2.Den Kruger Hek ‘Halle Jean’ – Joe Thomas

Orchid of the Month

Not sure which was picked so both

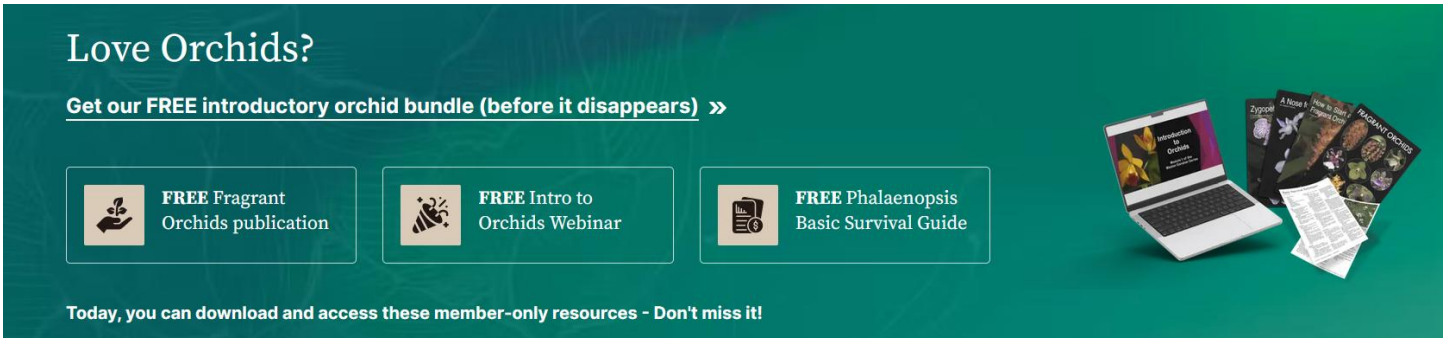


Den Kruger Hek ‘Halle Jean’ – Joe Thomas



Phal Equestris V Coerulea – Joe Thomas



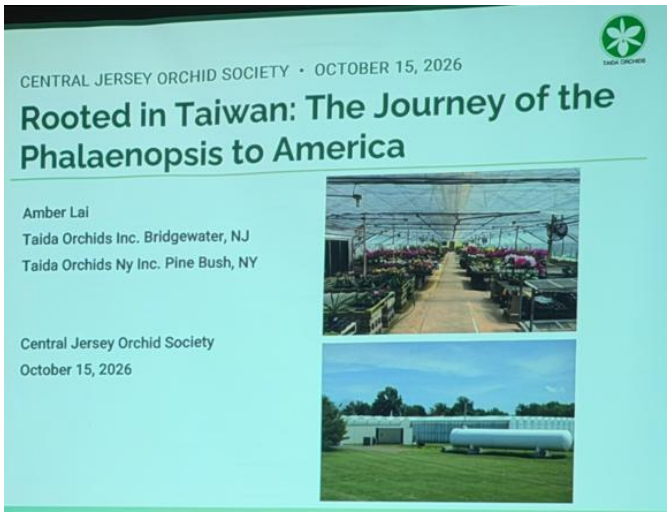


Please support this worthy organization!
Go to AOS.org for Webinar links and information on orchid culture and care. While you are visting their site, please join AOS. They have many things that will benefit you and and your plants.

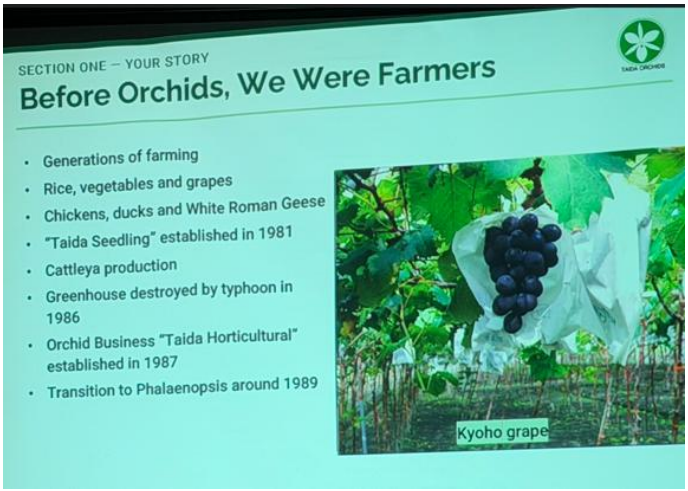
This was a unique presentation of the family's journey into the orchid field, the growing technology, the current industry dificulties (climate, shipping, tariffs, trade policies, and market dynamics)

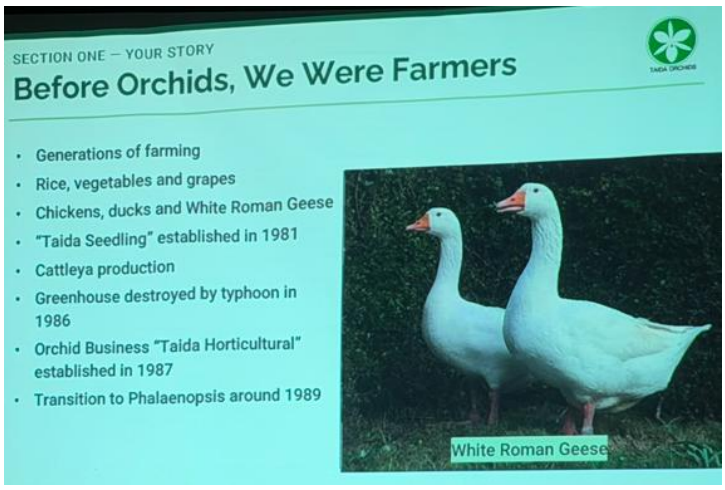
Amber Lai (Taida Orchids)

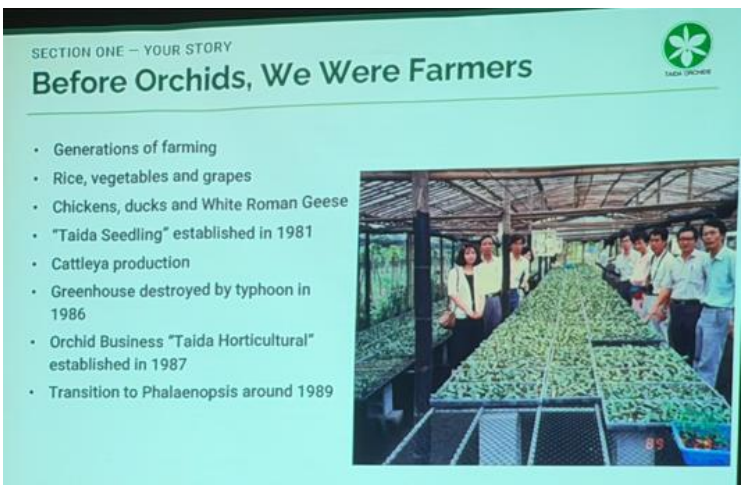
"Rooted in Taiwan: The Journey of the Phalaenopsis











SECTION TWO — HOW A PHALAENOPSIS BEGINS

Why Not Grow the Entire Plant in the U.S.

What does it take to produce the flowering Phalaenopsis we see in grocery store or garden center in the U.S.?



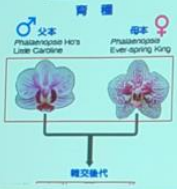


SECTION TWO — HOW A PHALAENOPSIS BEGINS

Two Ways to Produce a Phalaenopsis

Seedling

- Created through pollination
- Genetically variable
- Every plant may be different
- Used to create new varieties
- Flower's look and quality are unknown until blooming



Mericlone

- Created from selected plant tissue
- Intended to reproduce the selected parent
- Plants should be much more uniform
- Used for commercial production
- Parent quality is already known



SECTION TWO — HOW A PHALAENOPSIS BEGINS

A New Variety Begins with One Pollination

- Select the parent plants
- Record the characteristics of each parent
- Transfer the pollinia
- The seed capsule develops (4–5 months)
- The capsule is harvested
- Seeds are sterilized and sown in a flask

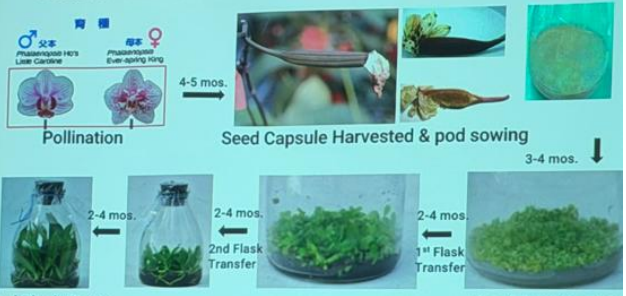




SECTION TWO — HOW A PHALAENOPSIS BEGINS

Seedling Laboratory Timeline

- Pollination → Seed Capsule Harvested → Seed Germination → First Flask Transfer → Second Flask Transfer → Final Flask Stage

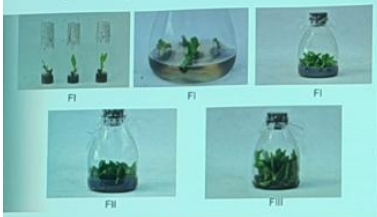


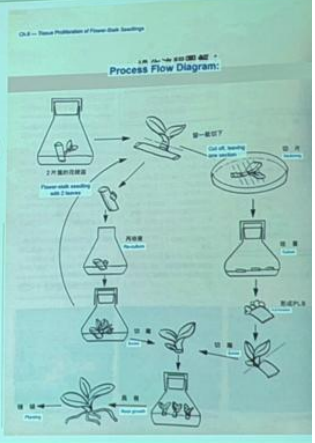
Approximately 16–25 months may pass before the young plants leave the flask.

SECTION TWO — HOW A PHALAENOPSIS BEGINS · THE MERICLONE METHOD

Reproducing by Mericlone Method

- Collect tissue from the desired plant's growing point or a flower-stem node
- Place selected tissue into sterile laboratory culture with agar-based nutrient medium
- Adjust nutrients and plant hormones for different stages: multiplication first, leaves and roots later
- Prepare the young plants for deflasking



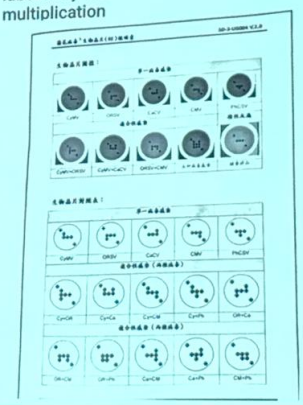


Virus Test

- Viruses may be multiplied along with plant tissue
- Testing begins with the selected mother plant
- Testing may be repeated during production
- ELISA is a traditional testing method
- RT-PCR-based biochip testing provides greater sensitivity
- Clean mother stock protects the complete production program

Cymbidium mosaic virus (CymMV)
Odontoglossum ringspot virus (ORSV)
Capsicum chlorosis virus (CaCV)
Cucumber mosaic virus (CMV)
Phalaenopsis chlorotic spot virus (PhCSV)

Mother plant → sample collection → laboratory test → test results → approve multiplication



SECTION THREE — FROM FLASK TO MATURE PLANT

Pot by Pot, Month by Month

- Flask → 2" pot (~5 months) → 3" pot (~5 months) → 4" pot (~6 months) → mature plant
- → cooling & spike initiation (~1–2 months+) → flowering plant
- Schedule varies by variety, season, and customer requirements



Approximately 16 months before they can spike, and another 3-4 months before their first bloom

SECTION THREE — FROM FLASK TO MATURE PLANT

How Long Does the Entire Process Take?

Beginning with an established mother culture

- Mother culture → mericlone production → young plant → mature plant → spike → flower — Total: approximately 3 years

Developing a completely new variety

- Pollination → seed capsule → seedling → first flowering → evaluation → mericlone → young plant → final flowering — Total: approximately 7 years

What would this plant cost if every stage were produced in the United States?

SECTION FOUR — WHY TAIWAN?

Why Taiwan?

- Early Taiwan phalaenopsis orchids industry
- Sphagnum moss
- Taiwan's market is small
- Expand to bigger market.
- We started orchid farm in California called Ontario Orchids in 1996.
- Bareroot orchids to the U.S.
- Collect, clean, pack, fly, inspect, release — several days
- Roots exposed in darkness; repotting required after arrival
- Labor intensive, high damage rate 30% and expensive air freight



SECTION FOUR — WHY TAIWAN?

Ten Years of Advocacy

- 1994: Family begins producing Phalaenopsis in sphagnum moss
- Mid-1990s onward: Questions raised about entry into the United States
- Industry advocacy: submitted proposal to Ministry of Agriculture hoping the government would assist farmers in resolving this predicament.
- 2002: Taiwan and U.S. government discussions begin
- 2003: USDA publishes the final regulatory decision
- 2004–2005: Work plans, greenhouse approval and commercial implementation
- Taida becomes the first USDA-approved greenhouse participant in 2004

Table 1 List of Approved *Phalaenopsis* spp. in Approved Growing Media Facilities (continued)

Country	Authorized Facility/ Grower	Grower or Registry No.	Approved Facility Address	Greenhouse No.
Taiwan to U.S. (continued)	Taida Horticultural Co., Ltd.	50-PS-001	Dapi Township, Yunlin County Taiwan	50-PS-001-03
			Ren'ai Township, Nantou County Taiwan	50-PS-001-06
			Xizhou Township, Changhua County Taiwan	50-PS-001-07 50-PS-001-11

SECTION FOUR — WHY TAIWAN?

USDA-Approved Greenhouse

- Preserve cultivation records and work logs
- Concrete floor
- Double-door entrance
- Fine insect-exclusion screening (0.1mm)
- Sealed or protected fan openings
- Pest monitoring and records
- Weed control
- Copper barriers against snails and slugs
- Greenhouse Inspection by Government periodically
- Inspection before export
- Traceability to an approved facility






Last Pic Source: APHIA.gov

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SECTION FOUR — WHY TAIWAN?

Pests and Weed Management

Pest & weed risk

- Scale insects, mites, caterpillars/moth larvae
- Snails and slugs
- Weeds and hitchhiking plant material

Sphagnum moss management

- Sourced from Chile (also New Zealand, higher cost)
- Heat-treated: 176°F / 80°C for 30 minutes
- In 2022, 23 containers rejected due to weed issues








News Source: TaiwanPlus News

SECTION FOUR — WHY TAIWAN?

Before and After Growing Media Approval

Before growing-media approval

- Bare-root plants with air freight
- Higher damage rate 30% and transplant stress
- More Labor involved: Bareroot and repotting again after arrival.
- Longer recovery, lower spike rate, less bud counts
- Longer growing time
- Higher cost and risk



After growing-media approval

- Mature plants arrive established in sphagnum moss by ship. Less root disturbance
- Lower damage rate 3%
- Higher Quality, higher spike rate, more bud counts.
- Faster greenhouse turnover
- High Market Acceptance: Stay moist during transit and less care needed at the retail store



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SECTION FIVE — TAIWAN'S ORCHID INDUSTRY

Taiwan's Orchid Ecosystem

Orchids became one of Taiwan's internationally recognized specialty agricultural industries.

Main production chain

- Breeders → Laboratories → Young-plant growers → Mature-plant growers → Flowering growers

Supporting industry

- Greenhouse builders
- Virus-testing suppliers & laboratories
- Growing-media suppliers
- Pot & tray suppliers
- Fertilizer suppliers
- Plant-equipment suppliers
- Packaging suppliers
- Exporters & logistics providers
- Government & industry organizations



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SECTION FIVE — TAIWAN'S ORCHID INDUSTRY

The Modern Phalaenopsis Greenhouse

- Cooling pads; air conditioning
- Heating; dehumidification
- Supplemental LED lighting
- CO2 Management
- Automated /Flood irrigation
- Movable benches; multilayer benches
- Environmental sensors; computerized greenhouse controls
- Pest Control with computer recognition

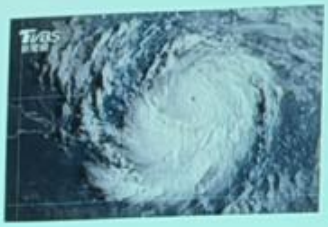




SECTION SIXTH — CHALLENGES FACING THE INDUSTRY

The Industry Is Becoming More Difficult

- Climate
- Trade policy
- Transportation
- Inflation: Lower Demand









SECTION SIXTH — CHALLENGES FACING THE INDUSTRY

Climate on Both Sides of the Ocean

Taiwan

- Typhoons; greenhouse structural damage (2025 Typhoon Danas)
- Power interruption; crop loss
- Long rebuilding periods

United States

- Longer, more intense heat periods
- harder summer spike initiation
- Colder and stronger Winter storms
- heating, longer growing time, infrastructure & delivery risk











Uncertain Shipping Route and Time

- Red Sea security problems may force ships onto longer routes
- Canal restrictions can change transit time
- Port congestion may delay container release
- Longer transit means more darkness and plant stress
- Fuel and freight costs may increase
- Delays affect greenhouse schedules and customer orders



Tariffs and a Price-Sensitive Market

- Rapidly changing tariff policies created uncertainty beginning in 2025
- Inflation: prioritize essential purchases
- Higher costs cannot always be passed to customers



Data

Printer Friendly | Other Formats | Create CSV File | Calculation Formulas | Change Base Year | 2025

Area/Partners of Origin
And General Commodities Imported

January - December
Values in Thousands of dollars

Partner			Product	2024 Value	2025 Value	Period/Period % Change (Value)
1	Taiwan	1	0602902000 - ORCHID PLANTS	64,874	51,834	-20
	Grand Total			64,874	51,834	-20

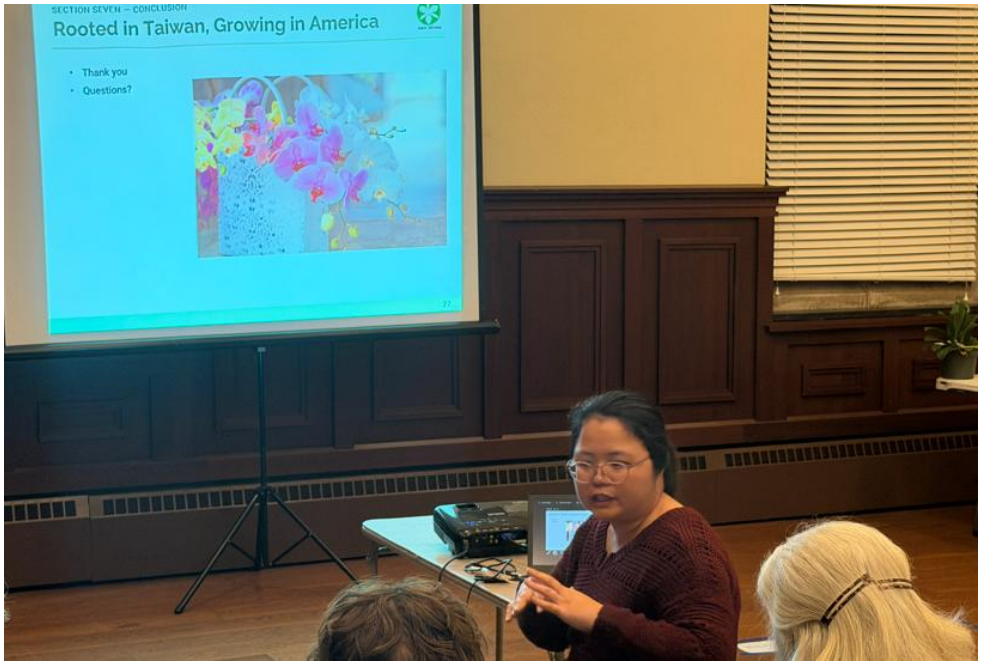
Notes:
1. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data
2. FAS Totals include all Agricultural commodities and FAS selected NONAG commodity items.
3. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
4. Product Group : FAS

What Is Behind One Phalaenopsis Plant?

- Breeding · Time · Laboratories · Mericloning
- Virus testing · Growing · Growing-media treatment
- Repotting · Watering · Pest exclusion
- Government cooperation · Inspection
- Ocean transportation · Shipment preparation · Recovery
- Greenhouse environmental management · Maintenance

Taiwan was the first country approved to export Phalaenopsis to the U.S. in growing media—helping connect years of specialized production in Taiwan with the American market.







Taida Sales table for CJOS