



Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



---

**THE AUGUST 2019 AOS CORNER** – From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee ([Affiliated\\_Societies@AOS.org](mailto:Affiliated_Societies@AOS.org)).

**For newsletter editors:** *Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner in whole or in part, in their society newsletters. We encourage promotion of AOS website use by your members.*

### **AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

The Affiliated Societies Committee is here to act as your liaison to the American Orchid Society as we strive to support membership. Whether you're planning a show or you can't find something on the website remember it's easy to contact us by just sending an email to [Affiliated\\_Societies@AOS.org](mailto:Affiliated_Societies@AOS.org). We're here to guide you or we'll find someone who can.

The American Orchid Society currently has over 300 affiliated societies worldwide and our community continues to grow. We are excited to ask you to welcome our newest members and fellow orchid enthusiasts:

- Sociedad Dominicana de Orquideologia of Dominicana Republica
- Catoctin Orchid Society of Thurmont, Maryland
- Sociedad de Orquidistas Latinoamericana of Homestead, Florida
- Coral Springs Orchid Society of Coral Springs, Florida
- NCKU Orchid Research and Development Center of Tainan, Taiwan
- Societa Felsinea de Orchidofilia of Bologna, Italy

The Trustees of the AOS and its Standing Committees meet twice each year in the spring and fall. This fall's meeting, which is hosted by the East Everglades Orchid Society, is being held October 16th – 20th, 2019 in Homestead, Florida. Plans are still underway, but the schedule is firming up. The Affiliated Societies Committee will meet Thursday morning, October 17th, so make sure to let your members know that they are welcome to join us. We would love to hear about your society and how we can support

you. The web page is up, and registration is now open so get signed up for the meeting and make your hotel reservation while space is available.

Here's the link: <http://www.aos.org/news-and-events/members-meetings.aspx>

We have updated and streamlined the society membership renewal process to make it easier to complete online. Make sure that you have signed in with your society email and password to ensure that the transaction is associated with the correct account (not your personal membership).

In the August issue of ORCHIDS magazine our AOS President, Susan Wedegaertner, explains how the American Orchid Society monitors and maintains healthy financial practices. With many moving parts, it truly does take a village. The current Audit Committee, comprised of AOS Trustees, is chaired by Jim Heilig with members Phyllis Prestia, Jeff Saal, and Nancy Mountford. She also introduces Jennifer Vina, our new AOS librarian, and announces that the AOS library at Fairchild will be open Tuesday through Saturday. If you're in the area stop by for a visit.

We're always looking for ideas to bring kids into the world of orchids. While planning your next orchid show don't forget to check out the AOS Kids Corner for ideas. Here's the link to the main page: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/kids-corner.aspx>. See other articles for instructions on how to create activities we've tested out or make up your own great activities. Please share your ideas and experiences with the [Education Committee at education\\_committee@aos.org](mailto:education_committee@aos.org).

Thanks again for all the pics that you are sending in for the Instagram feed. Our Instagram Administrator, Candace Hollinger, sends her appreciation to you all. It's wonderful to see such a variety of everything orchid that's enjoyed around the globe. Please remind your members that we would love pics of how they grow, what's blooming now or anything they love about orchids. Please continue to send your photos and short videos to: [americanorchidsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americanorchidsociety@gmail.com). Be sure to send a short caption explaining your photo. Also, if you are bilingual and can include your caption in English plus your other language(s)—it will help with our universal outreach.

Remember to check-in on our Facebook Group Page for Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society. The response has been great, many thanks to all of you who added pics of show banners. We can all learn from what has been successful for other societies. Let us know how your show went, and what was successful for you, or what didn't quite make the mark. Our administrator, Chad Brinkerhuff, monitors the feed and is a great resource for all that the AOS has to offer. Keep us up to date on what's going on at your local society and let us know how we can help you.

Don't forget to check out the [List of Speakers](#) to help you plan society meeting programs. You will now find the Affiliated Societies link on the home page under the "About Us" heading.

And... **Here's a link to check it all out** - <http://www.aos.org/>

## **Announcement from AOS Membership and Marketing Committee**

### **AOS Membership renewal - IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **Renew early and save in August!**

There will be an early renewal offer running in the month of August that will allow members to lock in at current rates for up to two years. For more details, please take note of the President's message in the August 2019 issue of ORCHIDS. The AOS is announcing some great new member benefits, along with improvements to our membership offerings.

### **CULTURE**

#### **TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST - August: The Month of Midlife**

**By Thomas Miranda**

OK, calm down everyone. Resist it all you like, but we all get older. Those of us of a "certain age" are frequently accused of having a crisis in our lives because others perceive some slightly reckless or unusual behavior. Isn't it hyperbolic to say we are in crisis simply because we seem restless in our jobs, dye our hair, buy a sporty car or, I don't know, sell everything we own and relocate to Argentina so we can dance the tango with beautiful strangers. OK, that one does seem a bit much. Even so, why not shake things up a little in our lives? It is not so much about regaining our youth (you could not pay me to be 20 again) as it is about keeping life fresh and fun. When I was 20 everything was exciting and new, and life was all about adventure and the future. We may be more settled now in our jobs and houses and partners, but life is still all about the future! Why shouldn't it be just as exciting as it was when we were kids?

The growing of orchids may seem a passive pursuit to many, some might even say cultivating orchids is a pastime for a more subdued set, but I beg to differ. Readers of Orchids know that the activity is endlessly fascinating, and the subject staggeringly vast and mind-boggling. While the thrill I get from walking into the greenhouse and seeing a long awaited new orchid flower finally unfurled may not be equally adrenaline inducing as hang gliding, I also do not run the risk of breaking any bones when I do it! Some of the greatest peak experiences of my life have involved searching for and finding orchids in the wild. These experiences have almost always involved exotic travel, moderate to intense physical activity, immersing myself in nature as well as hanging out with friends, old and new. If that's a life in crisis, I'll take it!

**WISE ABOUT WATER** Rainwater is a gift from above, and excessive amounts of runoff actually can hurt our environment. Collecting rainwater and using it for your orchids is easy and will be a boon to the health of your collection. A simple rain barrel with a submersible pump and a hose are the basic tools needed. Why waste this fine quality

water? August is a tough time for orchid watering, and you have to use your best judgment around this time. So many of your new growths that initiated in the spring are now approaching maturity. The observant grower will notice that they need less water and fertilizer now than they did months ago and should do better with a little less than they did when in active growth. Summer heat tends to halt plant metabolism in many of the intermediate growing orchids. Only the very warmest-growing orchids are unaffected by the intensities of summer weather.

**CAM PHOTOSYNTHETIC ORCHIDS** In fact, many warm-growing (and even some cooler growing) orchids engage in a water-retentive type of plant respiration referred to as crassulacean acid metabolism, or CAM photosynthesis. This is an adaptation that evolved in plants from desert habitats where temperatures are very high, and water is scarce. These types of plants do not open their stomata during the day, or all the water in their tissues would immediately vaporize. Instead, CAM plants open at night, which allows needed respiration to occur without the risk of rapid desiccation. In your orchid collection, this means that many of your more succulent orchids might not be able to take up water from their roots until the sun goes down.

**FUNGAL ISSUES** Astute growers will tell themselves, “Well, I’m told never to water late in the day for risk of crown rot and fungal pathogens that can occur when plant surfaces are wet at night. But if they don’t take in water until evening, when should I water?” This has more to do with a phrase you see in this magazine frequently: “a well-drained but moisture-retentive mixture.” This is the key to success for so many orchids. You have won half the watering battle by supplying the right mix for your climate for each individual in your collection. You may have the medium issue adequately addressed, but rot issues do tend to appear in the summer heat, especially if you mist your plants excessively to keep them cool. Be on the lookout for signs of bad fungi, broken down mixes that do not dry out (a sure sign of root rot), leaves that are not turgid and new growths that detach or disintegrate. If you have these types of problems, it might be time for an emergency repotting or treatment with a fungicide.

**THE HEAT IS ON** By this time in the summer, deleterious effects of heat will become more pronounced, and you may have to rescue a few orchids. Do your best to cool plants by using combinations of mist, shade and air movement. If portions of your plants have succumbed to heat stress or appear to be rotting, it is always best to remove and discard those necrotic tissues, as the resulting diseases can easily spread to healthier portions of the plant. Treat any cuts you make with an antifungal or antibacterial substance such as cinnamon. Next month, some relief is in sight for your heat-stressed orchids.



This stunning *Maxipedium xerophyticum* 'Moonlight and Star', CCM/AOS received 87 points in August 2014 with 47 flowers and 78 buds on 45 inflorescences. Individual flowers are just under an inch (2.4 cm) and the spectacular plant is composed of 250 growths filling a 28-inch (72-cm) container. Grown by Venk Reddy and photographed by Ramon de los Santos.

—*Thomas Mirenda, AOS Conservation Committee Chair (email: [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com))*

### **UPCOMING WEBINARS**

It's easy to find the scheduled webinars and to register on the AOS website. You'll find the link under the [All About Orchids](#) tab for any webinars that have been scheduled.

### **American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton** **Thursday, August 8th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT      *Public***

Please join Dr. Ron McHatton, AOS Chief Science Officer, as he answers your questions about all things orchid. He will discuss a variety of topics on orchid culture based on questions submitted by attendees. Please send your questions and pictures to Sandra Svoboda at [greenhouse@aos.org](mailto:greenhouse@aos.org) by Tuesday, July 6th. Please include pictures as well.

**Register now using this**

**link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8836669797507735809>

**What makes a great Vanda? with Robert Fuchs**

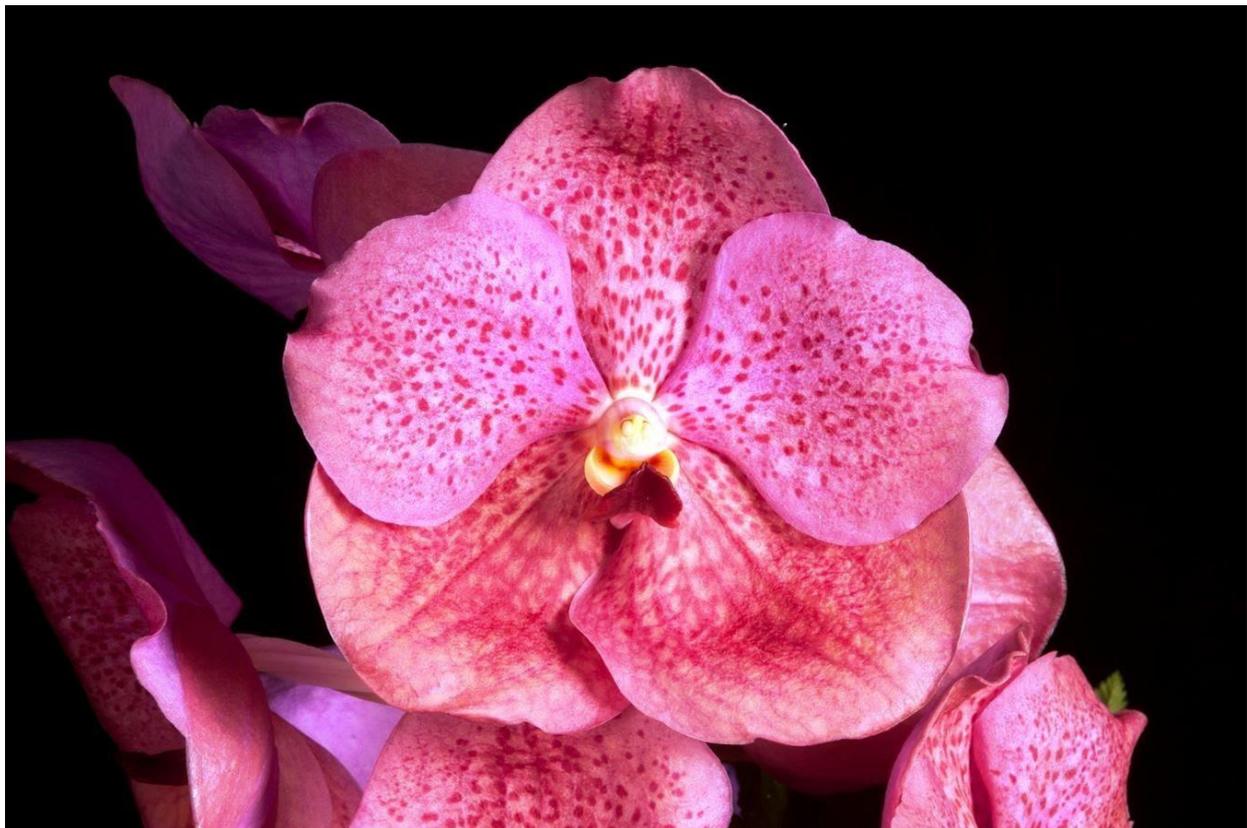
**Thursday, August 27th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT**

***Members only***

Please join premier Vanda grower, AOS Judge, and Vice President Robert Fuchs as he talks about the beautiful Vanda Alliance and gives us judging tips as to what makes a good Vanda.

**Register now using this**

**link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6134179066366826498>



Vanda Barbara Walker 'Crownfox' AM/AOS; Photographer: Willie Alleyne

**Note:** After registering you will receive a confirmation email information about joining the seminar.

**WHAT ARE WEBINARS?** Webinars are an Internet conference where you can hear the speaker and view the presentation, ask questions, and hear interactions from other members of the audience. You can join either on your computer or by phone. You can join from anywhere, via your Mac, PC or even your mobile device. Audio is included, so

attendees can phone in or use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). You will need a microphone for your computer to use VoIP.

**WANT TO LEARN BUT CAN'T MAKE THE DATE?** The live webinars will be recorded and posted on the AOS website, where you will find a link allowing you to view the webinars at your convenience.

**THE AUGUST ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE** will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- Companion Plants by Thomas Mirenda
- New Refugium Botanicum - *Cattleya dowiana*
- For the Novice - Why Cultural Conditions Matter by Ron Midgett
- Orchids Illustrated - *Maxillaria* by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- Lindleyana - New Ecuadorian Species
- *Maxillaria* Part II by Esteban (Steve) Gonzalez-Costa
- Catasetinae Part 2: Clowesias and Clowesetums by Fred Clarke
- *Tipularia discolor*: The Undercover Orchid by Soraya Cates Parr
- *Habenaria* Hybrids and Nothogenera by Leon Glicenstein



Habenaria Angel Bone 'Bryon' HCC/AOS; Photographer: Bryon Rinke

**YOUR SOCIETY CAN EARN FREE AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS:**

Upcoming shows are a good time to encourage new membership to AOS. Affiliated societies can now earn a one-month extension of their AOS society membership for each new AOS member that they refer (note: membership renewals don't count). Make sure to note your Society Affiliation in the comments section of the application.

*With twelve new AOS members, your affiliated society can have a FULL YEAR OF FREE AOS membership! Be sure to have membership applications with your society's name already filled in and available at your club meetings!*

Remember to let your members know, we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! If they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources at their disposal making growing orchids even more enjoyable and successful.

Digital Access to Over 350+  
past issues of Orchids magazine extending back to 1932!

**ALSO FEATURED IN ORCHIDS MAGAZINE!**

16-page award gallery of breath-taking pictures of recently awarded orchids.



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Cosmic Sparks 'Catspaw' HCC/AOS; Photographer: Melissa Garner

**RECENT ORCHID AWARDS PICTURES ON THE AOS WEBSITE:**

See fabulous pictures of the most breathtakingly beautiful orchids receiving awards from the AOS! Visit the new “Latest Orchid Awards” page on the AOS website to enjoy these stunning photographs! Click on the thumbnails to see them in larger format. Free to members and non-members.



Phalaenopsis LD's Bear Queen 'Alma' AM/AOS; Photographer: Judith Higham

**Let's grow together,  
Denise Lucero**