



Let's Grow Together!

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THE JULY 2019 AOS CORNER – From the desk of Denise Lucero, Vice Chair, American Orchid Society Affiliated Societies Committee (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

We're excited that the Centennial Committee is hard at work on plans for the 2021 American Orchid Society's 100th Birthday Celebration. It's really going to be a wonderful event and all very exciting as it's coming together. Be on the lookout in your society's mail for details on this gala with info on how your society and members can be a part of this effort in the very near future.

The conservation of orchid species and their habitats has been a cornerstone of the AOS since our founding in 1921. Currently committees are busy with methods to encourage participation in supporting AOS conservation efforts by affiliates and members. You'll be seeing more on current appeals in the next few months.

Although with recent June snow in the Rockies and devastating storms across the country bringing doubt, it appears that our summer weather might have finally arrived. With longer warmer days many of us are now able to spend more time outdoors and have the opportunity to see native orchids in our local regions. It's easy to find out what's near you on the North American Orchid Conservation Center at <http://goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org/>.

It's that time of year during which we are compiling the Orchid Source Directory information and sending it off to the printers. Please take a minute to ensure that your Affiliated Society information is correct and up to date as this is what will be used.

Here's the look-up for what we've got: <http://www.aos.org/About-Us/Affiliated-Societies/affiliated-societies-lookup.aspx>

Here's the link for the update: <http://www.aos.org/About-Us/Affiliated-Societies/affiliated-society-update-form.aspx>

In the July issue of ORCHIDS magazine our AOS President, Susan Wedegaertner, introduces us to the chair of the Conservation Committee, Tom Mirenda, and the committee's mission to promote conservation of our beloved orchid species. She also reminds us to save the date for our next American Orchid Society Members' Meeting which will take place October 16-20, 2019 in Homestead, Florida in conjunction with the East Everglades Orchid Society show.

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 sstubbings@comcast.net.

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. 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/>

CONSERVATION

Orchid Conservation in the Age of Climate Change

by Tom Miranda, American Orchid Society Conservation Committee Chair

Conservation can mean many things to many different people. When it comes to the environment, some believe it must involve tight control and regulation, while others feel 'nature should take its course.' We are living in a time known as the *Anthropocene*— a time where the dominance of humankind over the planet is so strong that our influence has affected the course of every living creature we share it with. Some compare the course of climate change to that of a steaming freight train about to hurtle over a cliff, while others see the undeniable shifts we are seeing as part of a longer continuum of change on a broader, geologic scale that would happen with or without human activity. The truth is probably somewhere in between these extreme views.

When it comes to the conservation of our precious Orchidaceae, the most biodiverse and species-rich family of flowering plants, we may truly have reached a crossroads where a laissez-faire approach could lead to mass extinctions over the coming decades. How tragic it would be if wild orchids disappeared and we could only see them in Botanical Gardens and private collections instead of the habitats in which they evolved and are a vital component. We in the field of Orchid Conservation believe the greater orchid community can do many things to protect and preserve orchids in their natural habitats. The AOS Conservation Committee (Conscom) is committed to using its resources towards promoting and facilitating the work of people around the world who genuinely love orchids and recognize the need to act in their defense.

Every year, the AOS provides Conscom with some funds to disburse to worthy conservation projects around the world, in the hope of nurturing the present (and the next) generation of orchid conservationists. Indeed, in the *Anthropocene*, it is only the actions and interventions of mankind that can produce positive change and correct our course into the future. While the corrections may be small ones, we see a worldwide trend towards conservation initiatives happening almost everywhere. The grants we offer are rather competitive, in that we currently have limited resources to distribute. But our hope is to build a larger program and endowment to increase the number and scope of projects we support well into the future.

This year, Conscom has approved funding for 5 projects, each involving collaborations between grass-roots local community-based organizations and partners in academia. It is a beautiful thing when local stakeholders recognize the need to protect a rare orchid from over collection, habitat degradation and climate change, as is the case in the Purace region of Colombia where the spectacular *Masdevallia racemosa* will be the focus of one of our projects. Another recipient of an AOS grant will go to two young men from a farming community in Viracochasi, Peru, who believe that an orchid reserve can coexist with sustainable agriculture in their village.

In Colombia, one of the most orchid rich nations in the world, we are supporting the activities of two new orchid reserves, one land purchased by the Orchid Society of Medellin and one by the Guanacas Foundation, where hundreds of species will be

protected from deforestation and poaching. Their projects involve utilizing local graduate students and citizen scientists in the exploration and cataloguing of the myriad species within as these wild places have not yet been thoroughly botanized. It will be wonderful to learn of the treasure trove of species that occur and thrive in these natural areas, as well as the possibility of seeing them for ourselves one day on ecotouristic visits.



Miltoniopsis vexillaria 'San Isidro' AM/AOS;Photographer: Willim Trujillo

Conscom is also continually supporting North American orchid conservation efforts, including one exploring the natural ecology and distribution of Cypripediums in Alaska. As the American Orchid Society, we would love to see our funds put to work in America! Unfortunately, the costs of many American conservation projects are very high in comparison to what can be done in other regions of the world where salary and institutional costs are considerably less. A strong endowment, however, will allow us to support American orchid conservation efforts, especially those of our colleagues at Smithsonian's North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) <https://northamericanorchidcenter.org/> a most worthy, capable and collaborative organization. Indeed, Jay O'Neill of their staff, received the prestigious Keenan Conservation Award for his work on the incredible GO Orchids website.

Historically, the AOS Conscom has supported projects around the world. With the support of the AOS and its membership (YOU!) we believe we can have a truly positive

effect on the future preservation of the amazing biodiversity of the orchid family and by extension, the myriad creatures that share their, and our habitat on this incredible planet we all inhabit, well into the future.

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. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of this monthly Corner.

The Story of White Cattleyas with Jean Ikeson

Thursday, July 11th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT *Members only*

Join Jean Ikeson, AOS Accredited Judge, as she takes us on a journey through time to see trends in breeding and awarding White Cattleyas.

Register now using this

link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6393813344718413571>



American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton

Thursday, July 18th, 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 by Tuesday, July 16th. Please include pictures as well.

Register now using this

link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3683896514875164674>

Note: After registering you will receive a confirmation e-mail 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 JULY ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- Genus of the month - *Thunia* by Thomas Mirenda
- New Refugium Botanicum - *Angraecum sesquipedale*
- For the Novice - Apical Dominance by Sue Bottom
- Orchids Illustrated - *Coelogyne* by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- Lindleyana – *Cynorkis xranaivosonii* , a new natural hybrid from Madagascar by Johan Hermans and Landy Rajaovelona
- Vanilla and Hawaii's Big Island by Carol Zahaki
- First Ladies and Their Cattleyas - *Rlc.* Melania Trump by A.A Chadwick and A.E. Chadwick
- Fifty Years and Still Growing! - J&L Orchids by Marguerite Webb and Cordelia Head
- In Search of *Cattleya quadricolor* by Phillip Seaton



Cattleya quadricolor 'Ines Morales' AM/AOS; Photographer: Juan Carlos Uribe

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.



Lycaste Abou Sunset 'Amitabha' FCC/AOS; Photographer: Chaunie Langland

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.



Dendrobium amabile 'Rodney' CCE/AOS; Photographer: Wes Newton (note: this plant also received an AM at the same judging)

Let's grow together,
Denise Lucero