



Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



THE SEPTEMBER 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

As you may have heard, membership rates are increasing on Jan 1, 2020. If your renewal date is before July 1, 2020, you can renew early at today's rates. Renewing early removes the risk of missing the January 1st, 2020 date and allows the society to save a few dollars. The inclusion of Orchids Pro as part of membership also applies to societies and will be available on October 1st. Having an authorized society member designated to use this tool at a society show makes plant classifications easier, especially when the show is AOS judged. This is just one example of the award tool applied for affiliate use.

If you have additional questions, please send an email to affiliated_societies@aos.org. A member of our committee will reply to your inquiry.

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. 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 open so get signed up for the meeting and make your hotel reservation while space is available. It's not too late to join us but rooms are going fast!

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

The AOS Board of Trustees is seeking nominations for members of the Board of Trustees of the American Orchid Society, for all six officers (for 2020-2022) and four trustees (for 2020-2023). Members may nominate any member in good standing, including themselves, and shall provide a rationale as to why they should be considered. All nominations will be evaluated by the Nominating Committee and a slate will be mailed, in accordance with the by-laws, prior to the election at the Members Meeting in the spring of 2020. You can look at the competencies Board Members are evaluated on at the link below. If someone in your society, or you, can provide guidance to the future of the AOS and is interested in serving on the Board, please send your nominations to Alan Koch at nominating_committee@aos.org. Nominations will be accepted up to close of business September 25, 2019.

Here's the link: <http://www.aos.org/featured-content/call-for-nominations.aspx>

Make sure not to miss the President's message in the September issue of ORCHIDS magazine. Susan Wedegaertner tells us that one of the highlights of her position is the delivery of awards of appreciation. Recently, long time committee members of the AOS were recognized. The contributions and efforts of these individuals have helped to make the AOS into the organization we know today.

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.

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/>

CULTURE

EDEMA: What Are Those Strange Blisters? Text by Sue Bottom / Pictures by Terry Bottom

Originally published in ORCHIDS 2015

When I first noticed those corky blisters on the leaves of my orchids, I thought it was some kind of aberrant scale. I tried scratching them off and even tried excising them with an X-Acto knife, though of course it wasn't scale at all. The culprit was edema, also known as oedema; swelling caused by excess fluids.

In orchids, this swelling is caused by improper watering, when the roots absorb more water than can be transpired by the leaves. Typically, this happens during the cooler months in late winter and early spring, especially during extended periods of cool, cloudy weather. If you water on a gray day when the plant is not actively growing or you water late in the day on a day when the nighttime temperatures turn cool, edema blisters may form. The excess water absorbed by the plant causes a swelling of plant cells that produces a blister on the leaf.

Proper watering is the key to preventing edema blisters from forming. During the warm growing season when plants are in active growth and the nighttime temperatures are warm, you can water your plants with wild abandon. You can water in the morning, the afternoon or at night. In fact, when the humidity is very low, many orchid growers find it difficult to properly hydrate their orchids because they dry out so quickly.

Some selectively water in the evenings after the sun has set so their plants will stay wet overnight and soak up water. Fertilizer shouldn't be applied in the evening hours. Darkness, plus water, plus nutrients is a formula for fungal and bacterial growth. Most orchids grow in a nutrient-poor environment so even though the plants may be wet at night from heavy dews and rain, there is insufficient food to fuel roots and the like in nature. If you decide a nighttime watering regime is right for you, water at dusk and then apply your fertilizer in the early morning.

My go-to guy, Courtney Hackney, recommends nighttime watering during periods of low humidity and warm nighttime temperatures and notes some of the additional benefits from this approach. Your plants will be well hydrated so you will not have to worry about fertilizer toxicity. The roots will be ready to take up fertilizer as their surface condition has changed from hard and stiff to soft and pliable. If you live in an area with hard water, salts that accumulate in the medium, pots and roots will become soluble

overnight, allowing them to be flushed out the next morning while fertilizing. Once the humidity rises or nighttime temperatures drop below the 65–70 F (18–21 C) range, you should resume the more conventional morning watering regime.

Watering during the cooler months is quite different than during the main growing season. Many orchids go through a winter resting period and some an outright dormancy, so the orchid's need for water and fertilizer is at a minimum. Your frequency of watering will be perhaps a quarter or a half of your summertime watering frequency. Water early in the morning, finishing before noon or so. Do not water on gray or rainy days, even if it is your "scheduled" watering day.

Orchid growers spend a lot of time worrying about different pests and diseases that might be afflicting their plants. I have come to believe that there are more physiological and cultural issues that cause problems with your orchids than those caused by pests and diseases. If you have access to the AOS Guide on Orchid Pests and Diseases, read or reread Tom Sheehan's discussion on physiological disorders caused by improper watering, light, nutrition, potting faults and other conditions (Sheehan 2002). His comments are as true today as the day they were written.



This bifoliate cattleya has just developed edema. The blisters are always raised. Sunken spots would be suggestive of a bacterial infection causing a collapse of the cells. Sometimes edema is mistaken for scale, though scale can easily be rubbed off with alcohol and a cotton swab.



The raised blisters are clearly displayed on this phalaenopsis leaf. Some of them are translucent, and some have taken on a corky appearance (image sent to www.staugorchidsociety.org for diagnosis).

Additional Reading:

Cating, R.A., Palmateer, A.J., Stiles, C.M., Harmon, P.F. and Davison, D.A. 2014. Physiological Disorders of Orchids: Oedema. University of Florida, IFAS Extension, Plant Pathology Department, PP244, Revised April 2014. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp164>. Accessed July 16, 2015.

Sheehan, T.J. 2002. Physiological Disorders of Orchids. p. 4-21. In: Orchid Pests and

Diseases, Revised Edition, T.J. Watson editor. American Orchid Society, Delray Beach, Florida.

— Sue Bottom started growing orchids in Houston in the mid-1990s after her husband Terry built her first greenhouse. They settled into St. Augustine, Florida, Sue with her orchids and Terry with his camera are active in the St. Augustine Orchid Society, maintaining the society's website and publishing its monthly newsletter. Sue is also a member of the AOS Editorial Board (sbottom15@hotmail.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. If you check there, you will find any webinars that have been scheduled after the production of this monthly Corner.

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://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6134179066366826498>



Vanda Misty Pace 'Crownfox' FCC/AOS; Photographer: Willie Alleyne

American Orchid Society: Greenhouse Chat with Dr. Ron McHatton
Thursday, September 5th, 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, September 3rd. Please include pictures as well.

Register now using this

link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/147860524862361347>

Orchid Gardens of Latin America with Tom Mirenda
Wednesday, September 18th, 2019 @ 8:30-9:30 EDT

Members only

Please join Tom Mirenda, noted conservationist, orchid expert, and AOS Accredited Judge, as he takes us on a tour of Latin America's fabulous Orchid Gardens.

Register now using this

link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8567250965795696385>

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 SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF ORCHIDS MAGAZINE will feature great articles and beautiful pictures on:

- New Refugium Botanicum - TBD
- Orchids Illustrated - *Masdevallia* by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- Lindleyana - New Ecuadorian Species, Part 2 by Hugo Medina, José Portilla and Iván Portilla
- Orchids of Bhutan - *Diplomeris* by Stig Dalström, et al.
- Who Were These Guys, Part 9 - Charles Robert Darwin by David Rosenfeld, MD
- Icelands Hidden - *Dactylorhiza maculata* subsp. *islandica* by Sergey and Elena Skoropad
- Orchids Among the Thorns by Spiro Kasomenakis
- Genus of the Month - *Zootrophion* by Thomas Mirenda and Wolfgang Rysy



Zootrophion vulturiceps 'Windflower' AM/AOS; Photographer: Arnold Gum

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.



Paphiopedilum Howard Martin 'Howard P. Martin' AM/AOS; Photographer: Jennifer Lang Margaret Folwell

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.



Stanhopea saccata 'Dude' AM/AOS; Photographer Wilton Guillory

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Denise Lucero**