



Let's Grow Together!

www.aos.org



2020 May AOS Corner – for Affiliated Societies

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to reproduce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications.
We encourage use of the **AOS website** by all members. <http://www.aos.org>

THE PERFECT PAIRING
FOR
WHEN THERE ARE
NO ORCHID SHOWS
OR
MONTHLY MEETINGS
IN SIGHT



Here's to all of
the orchids that
we missed
at shows and
meetings and on
the judging table.

Please shop your
local growers.

Way before COVID-19: Hand painted wine bottle & stemware by MIMA, photo credit Jim Tear
(sold at the Tampa Bay Orchid Society Show)

MAY Focus: Coping With Coronavirus Isolation

There is no doubt that many people have been affected by the social isolation of the coronavirus quarantine. Orchid shows and sales have been cancelled left and right. American Orchid Society official monthly judging has been cancelled. So how do we stay connected in a disconnected world?

Some societies have abandoned their monthly meetings entirely and will make a decision to meet again when stay-at-home orders are lifted. Others have gotten creative with on line meetings, highlighting and discussing their monthly bloom table, with photo entries submitted by membership, using different platforms like Zoom, Go To Meeting or similar programs.

There has been an increase in contributions to society newsletters, and more frequent updates on Facebook pages and club websites. Most societies agree that it is critical to maintain a sense of belonging at this time of social disconnect.

The American Orchid Society is doing their part to engage members and non-members alike.

Did you play along with **ORCHID MADNESS** on the American Orchid Society Facebook group page? The bracket style tournament tipped-off March 25. For 24 days in a row, AOS and Facebook group members were encouraged to vote their favorite from an original pool of 64 AM/AOS award-winning orchids. Posts were shared on Instagram and throughout Facebook. Membership on the AOS group page grew by nearly 3000 new members in a little over three weeks. The winner of each round was featured on a parallel AOS website page. The website encouraged viewers to see more awarded orchids in OrchidPro. <http://www.aos.org/madness>



The American Orchid Society also opened up all AOS webinars to non-members through the month of April. The goal was to connect non-AOS members with the AOS and ultimately, with our Affiliated Societies through new memberships.

FOR YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Until we meet in person again - Orchid lovers everywhere will find ways to get their shot of orchid adrenalin.

What else can we do while we wait this out? Spend intimate time with our orchid collection. Enjoy the proliferation of blooms this time of year brings. Share your blooms on Instagram, Facebook and your society websites.

Remember to check in with us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/>
<https://instagram.com/americanorchidsociety?igshid=16ixfciczky01>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/>

What else can we do while we wait this out? Support orchid vendors with mail order purchases and gift card purchases, if offered. We want to see them come through all of this to keep us happy in our passion for orchids. The **Orchid Source Directory** is a good place to start. <http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-source-directory.aspx>

What else can we do while we wait this out? Increase our knowledge. A new shipment of *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* has arrived at headquarters. Though access to our offices at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is limited at this time, and shipping is delayed, this is the perfect time to order a copy of this publication. Bulk discounts apply. <https://secure.aos.org/Products/353-the-american-orchid-society-guide-to-orchids-and-their-culture.aspx>

What else can we do while we wait this out? Comb through the **AOS website**. Contained therein is more information that anyone can digest at one sitting. Choose from a multitude of drop down menus for early dining. Have questions? Here are some answers. <http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-question-answer.aspx>
<http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchids-a-to-z.aspx>

What else can we do while we wait this out? Read orchid tales. There are a few good orchid themed books to distract you. I suggest *The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most Beautiful Orchid*, written by an author local to my area, Craig Pittman. It is a story about the discovery of *Phragmipedium kovachii*. Another engaging read might be *Deadly Slipper: A Novel of Death on the Dordogne* (one in a series of four) by Michelle Wan. There is always *The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession* by Susan Orlean, and *Orchid Fever: A Horticultural Tale of Love, Lust and Lunacy*, by Eric Hansen. For a little orchid history and the obsessive hold orchids have over us, you might consider *Orchid: A Cultural History* by Jim Endersby.

Most of these publications can be found on amazon.com either in print, Kindle or audiobook. Don't forget to choose Amazon Smile. You can help the American Orchid Society simply by shopping at Amazon through their Amazon Smile program. Just go to <http://smile.amazon.com> every time you shop at Amazon. When you checkout for the first time, you will be asked to designate your charity. Type American Orchid Society in the search bar - We appear as "American Orchid Society Inc."

Webinars-Coming Attractions!






When	May 12, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	May 21, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	June 16, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	June 23, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Australian Dendrobiums	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Growing Coelogyne
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Fred Clarke AOS Judge, Orchid Hybridizer & Greenhouse Owner	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Charles Wilson AOS Judge, Committee Member Education and Conservation

To view webinars **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED:** <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

*Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook, Instagram
and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society's newsletter.*

If you want to view independently from home, you can join live on your computer, or mobile device.

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

ALL webinars are recorded and available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

WHAT ARE WEBINARS? An Affiliated Society may use recorded webinars for presentations at their monthly meetings. With Wi-Fi access, it's easy! Webinars are an internet-connected audiovisual presentation. You can view from anywhere that you have an internet connection via Mac, PC or even your mobile device. It's easy to find the **scheduled webinars** and to register on the AOS website. You will find the link here:

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

If you do not have internet access, you can contact the AOS Education Committee, Sandra Svoboda at stillisch@cox.net and request **a program from the recorded list.** <http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Webinars-for-Affiliated-Societies-7-24-19.pdf> The video file with instructions for use will be sent to you. Copy the file to a flash drive or copy it to your computer hard drive and show the webinar at the meeting.

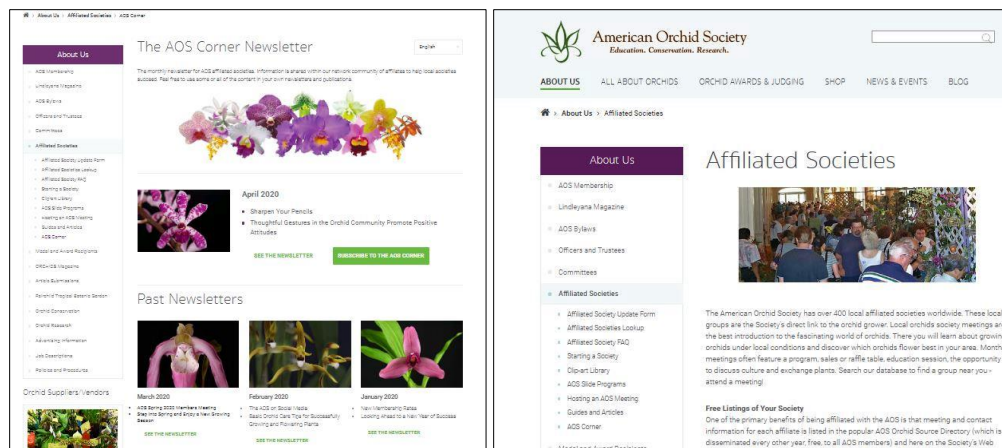
REMINDERS

Insight for our **AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

<http://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx>

Check out the Complete Affiliated Benefits Package

<http://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/Benefits-of-being-an-Affiliated-Societies-Member-v5.pdf>



AFFILIATED SOCIETY BONUS - EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a

FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership! Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation on the printed membership form or in the comments section online at checkout.

Remember to let your society 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 available to help make orchid growing enjoyable and successful. *Individual society membership and AOS Membership are not the same. Although affiliated, each requires separate membership dues.*

2020 **updated membership** rates and membership material NOW on the AOS website!

<http://www.aos.org/about-us/aos-membership.aspx>

MEMBERS can VIEW the beauty and diversity of awarded orchids in every issue of ORCHIDS magazine. Exhibits are also included in the latest awards gallery. Don't forget to check the **most recently awarded orchids on the AOS website**. Members also have access to Orchid Pro, the premier tool for studying awarded orchids.

<https://secure.aos.org/orchid-awards.aspx>



Cattleya Pole-Star 'Mirtha Isabel'
(*Cattleya coccinea* x *Cattleya briergeri*)
AM/AOS (81 points)
Exhibitor: Ben Oliveros and Orchid Eros
Photographer: Glen Barfield
Date: Mar 14, 2020 Award
No: 20203714 (left side)



Phalaenopsis schilleriana 'Jane'
AM/AOS (83 points)
Exhibitor: David A. Edgley
Photographer: Mike Pearson
Date: Mar 07, 2020 Award
No: 20205461 (right side)

American Orchid Society Silver Certificate 'It Was Supposed To Be a Tabletop'
SC/AOS (87 points)
Exhibitor: Sarah Hurdell
Photographer: Julie Rotramel
Date: Mar 05, 2020
Award No: 20204690 (below)



CULTURE CONNECTION

CULTIVATE: to grow in a prepared medium

Visit the AOS website for a **Monthly Checklist on Orchid Care**

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/seasonal-orchid-care/may-june-checklist.aspx>

May: The Month of the Paradigm Shift by Tom Mirenda

Conventional wisdom suggests that stability and security are the keys to successful living. Certainly in the world of orchids, huge fluctuations in temperature, humidity and light levels lead to poor horticulture. Steadiness in the environment, whether it be outside in a garden or inside in a growing space, is part of what we provide our plants to keep them growing and thriving. This is one reason why so many of us worry about what will happen if the climate changes significantly or shifts permanently. In the culture of our plants, however, there is almost always change that occurs over an annual cycle. Each respective orchid environment shifts, slightly or vastly, over time in the onset of rains or droughts, cool or warm seasons, with corresponding activity among pollinators and other symbionts.

These changes can be subtle, as in most tropical rainforests, or cataclysmic, such as boreal deciduous woodlands where practically everything changes drastically with each season. Suddenly we must think of what was once good three months ago, is suddenly bad for the progress of our plants, and four or six months from now may be good again.

These paradigm shifts, whether subtle or severe, are most important for us to recognize as they are usually what stimulates our plants to bloom, progress and meet their true potential. If you are lamenting (or reveling) in the changes happening all around us these days, consider that the pendulum swings both ways. Perhaps a little adversity is what has been truly needed to make us progress and bloom. Personally, I have been shaken out of my complacency, how about you? Is anyone else out there feeling energized to make our world a little better?

SHIFTING CULTURE May is one of the most exciting and glorious months on our calendar. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, spring is going strong and flowers abound in the landscape. It seems new life is springing up everywhere. It is the most optimistic of times. I sincerely hope these delicious Mays will continue forever and spread the joy of rebirth as it has since the dawn of mankind. The weather is warming up, but still cool and fresh and buoyant with cooler night temperatures. This temperature differential of 10–15 F (about 5–8 C) is so crucial for most orchids to thrive. It is why I usually recommend people take their orchids outside this time of year to enjoy natural temperature differentials, rejuvenating spring rains and natural light. These are tonics for most orchids and should be exploited, at least until the dog days of summer when we might have another paradigm shift.

LIFE IS A BANQUET Auntie Mame, one of the most memorable and free spirited characters in literature, expressed this excellent truth, except that most of us do not seem to come to the table for some reason. She is correct though, in that our world offers us all kinds of sumptuous possibilities if we are willing to go out and get them. The next few months are serious “banquet time” for most of our orchids. I cannot recommend particular fertilizers or regimens, as there is no one-size-fits-all solution in orchids. Nonetheless, I encourage you to ask your local orchid friends what they are doing and try experimentation with different nutrients to see what elicits the best results for you in your climate.

MAKING ROOM FOR CHANGE Repotting season is at its peak and all orchids that have outgrown their vessels with obstreperous aerial roots all about should be dealt with around now. Think of this like buying new pants or shoes for your kids as they grow up. If you do not buy the shoes or pants, the kids will still grow but will be embarrassed at school and probably will not be invited to the prom. Make sure your plants have the space needed to grow this season’s roots and growths or you will be cheating them of their chance to bloom to their full potential, and in turn cheating yourself of the ultimate enjoyment of seeing your “chids” perform and thrive.

BURGEONING LIFE With all the plants springing up everywhere in the landscape, there are certainly plenty of vernal woodland orchids emerging too. A modicum of research will tell you where to find some local populations. Connecting with the terrific, friendly group known as the Native Orchid Conference (<http://www.nativeorchidconference.info/>) is a great way to get information about likeminded native orchid seekers. Maybe you will find out about orchid hunting trips sponsored by members near you and tag along. Whether or not you find orchids on one of these trips, I promise you, just getting out in the field can be one of the most energizing and life-affirming things you will do this spring. Who knows? It might even shift your life for the better. *(As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 86, NO.5, MAY 2017)*

AOS members have access to over 2,050 articles published between the years 2003 - 2009 and 2011 - 2018 through the [digital archives](http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx).
<http://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

Worth the Read - ORCHIDS May Preview

- The Rest of the Story – Conservation and the new USPS native orchid stamps by Tom Mirenda
- For the Novice: Making Orchids Bloom by Ray Barkalow
- Orchids Illustrated - Cuban Orchids by Peggy Alrich and Wesley Higgins
- The Hybrid Genus *Fredclarkeara* by Fred Clarke
- Small-Flowered Phalaenopsis, Part 2 by Andrew Coghill-Behrends
- Affordable Benches and Flexible Growing Spaces by A'na Sa'tara

Please send your comments, questions and submissions for the AOS Corner to

askmasc@verizon.net or Eileenh@aos.org

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner!

Eileen Hector, AOS Corner - *Affiliated Societies Newsletter Editor*