



Let's Grow Together!

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2020 FEBRUARY 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](http://www.aos.org) by all members. <http://www.aos.org>

Insight for our [AFFILIATED SOCIETIES](http://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx)

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

Love Your Orchids!

Learn what it takes to make your orchids thrive. Share AOS [Culture Sheets](http://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets.aspx) with new members at your meetings. Drop some off at your local growers. Ask your big box stores if you can leave some in their garden centers near their orchid benches. Remember to include your society contact information somewhere too (rubber stamp or business card attached).

<http://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets.aspx>

With spring around the corner, beware of hitchhikers in your growing area. While you have been out and about purchasing a few new orchids at local shows and sales, there may be hidden [pests](http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases.aspx) among the beauty. Be alert, be aware and be vigilant. <http://www.aos.org/orchids/orchid-pests-diseases.aspx>

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.

Look for [updated membership](http://www.aos.org/about-us/aos-membership.aspx) rates and membership material on the AOS website in 2020

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

FEBRUARY Focus: Feed the Frenzy - The AOS on Social Media

DID YOU KNOW? Find Us on Facebook - The AOS - More than Pretty Pictures

The **American Orchid Society Facebook group page** has exceeded 35,000 members. Group members post photos and videos of their blooming orchids, ask questions, add comments and share their passion for the flowers we all love. In real time too. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52597049839/>

With such a diverse group, it is eye opening to see the many different types of orchids that are grown around the world. While there are some general guidelines for growing orchids, it is not a one size fits all endeavor. Some of these orchids we may otherwise never see in person. Our AOS group page bears out, that orchid growing truly is a global passion. If you have contributed to our page, thanks for sharing a part of your world with us. Be sure to add your society to the growing number of followers!

DID YOU KNOW? There is an Affiliated Societies of the AOS page on Facebook

Affiliated Societies of the American Orchid Society page has 534 members. This page is a place for the AOS, Membership and **Affiliated Societies** Committee to maintain contact and provide information to societies, AOS Representatives, Board Presidents and Newsletter Editors. This is a place for you to ask for help, as well as a place to share your society best practices. If your society has not requested membership on this page, do it now. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/>

DID YOU KNOW? You can Create Events on Facebook

Societies have so many great events they need to share and most have limited financial resources. Facebook is perfect for sharing. It is relatively easy to create an **Event listing** on Facebook. The more information you include the further reach you will have. Remember to include a society contact, a society website address and a catchy graphic. Show flyers work perfectly for the graphic if that is what you are advertising. A beautiful orchid photograph grown by one of your members is a sure way to attract attention. You can also create recurring Facebook Events for your regular monthly meetings. Be sure to visit your Event post periodically and add new content or comments so viewers will keep coming back to see what is new. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AffiliatedSocietiesOfTheAOS/events/>

DID YOU KNOW? AOS has an Instagram account

What is **Instagram**? This is a quote from their help center. "Instagram is a free photo and video sharing app available on Apple iOS, Android and Windows Phone. People can upload photos or videos to our service and share them with their followers or with a select group of friends. They can also view, comment and like posts shared by their friends on Instagram. Anyone 13 and older can create an account by registering an email address and selecting a username." <https://www.instagram.com/>

If you already have an Instagram account, follow the AOS and share your orchid photos and events!



[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)

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

REMINDERS

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.

Webinars-Coming Attractions!



When	February 11, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	February 18, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday	March 19, 2020 8:30pm EST Thursday	March 31, 2020 8:30pm EST Tuesday
Topic	Large Flowered Cattleyas	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) <i>Send in your Questions!</i>	Junior Orchid Show A Success Story
Presenter	Art Chadwick Founder Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc.	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Barb Schmidt AOS Education Committee member

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

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

We digitize the webinars and they are available to view at your leisure from the same webpage.

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

If you want to view independently from home, you can join live, either on your computer or by phone.

ALL past webinars are recorded and indexed by topic, for future viewing.

FOR YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERS

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.

It's a Celebration! You can be a part of it!

The American Orchid Society headquarters at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, has been chosen by The United States Postal Service as the host site for the release of new

stamps in 2020 - Wild Orchids! The postal service holds a First Day of Issue Ceremony for each new stamp release the day the stamps go on sale across the USA. The new stamps will be available to purchase during this event. The AOS will host the First Day of Issue Ceremony for these stamps on February 21, 2020 at 11:00 am. The celebration will take place at the AOS Library located inside **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens**. <https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Horticulture/American-Orchid-Society-at-Fairchild>

Each stamp features a photograph of one of nine species that grows wild in the United States. Identified left to right row one: **1** *Triphora trianthophoros*, **2** *Cypripedium californicum*, **3** *Hexalectris spicata*, **4** *Cypripedium reginae*, **5** *Spiranthes odorata*
 Identified left to right row two: **6** *Platanthera leucophaea*, **7** *Triphora trianthophoros*, **8** *Platanthera grandiflora*, **9** *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, **10** *Calopogon tuberosus*



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/january-february-checklist.aspx>

February: BEGINNERS START HERE Basic Orchid Care Tips for Successfully Growing and Flowering Plants
 By Ron McHatton, PhD

KNOWING WHICH ORCHID YOU ARE trying to grow is your key to its cultural requirements. Orchids, like all plants, need a balance of light, air, water and food to grow and flower well. Let's examine each of these elements.

LIGHT Without enough light, orchids may produce lush-looking growths but no flowers. Not giving orchids enough light is the most common reason for failure to bloom. The old notion of orchids growing

in dark jungles still persists and it couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, many have developed as epiphytes to take advantage of brighter light available in the upper forest canopy.

Provide orchids with as much light as they will take without burning. This means that the foliage should not be a lush, dark green. Orchids grown under sufficient light will have lighter, somewhat yellow-green foliage and strong upright growths.

AIR Orchid roots, and eventually the entire plant, will die if they do not receive air. This is the reason that, with the exception of a few terrestrial varieties, they do not grow in soil. Orchid potting media should be open, with exceptionally good drainage, yet capable of holding sufficient moisture to support the plant's needs. Orchid plants are also intolerant of a stale, stagnant environment. You should strive for a buoyant atmosphere and gentle air movement must be provided at all times. For orchids grown in the home, this can be provided by an overhead paddle fan set on its lowest setting or a portable oscillating fan directed away from the plants.

WATER Without question, more orchids are killed by incorrect watering than by any other reason. Proper watering consists of two separate components: quantity and frequency. Orchids should be watered just as they dry out. There's unfortunately no magic formula; i.e., water a plant in a 6-inch (15-cm) pot every seven days and you'll be trouble free. This is because your growing area is different from anyone else's. Humidity, air movement, potting medium (type and age) and light levels all play a role.

There are several ways to determine when a potted orchid is almost dry: 1) The surface of the potting mix will appear dry. 2) Dry pots will feel lighter. 3) Clay pots feel dry. 4) A wooden stake or skewer inserted into the potting mix will come out almost dry. If in doubt, a finger inserted into the potting mix is perhaps the best tool to determine the moisture content of the potting mix. It will cause no harm to the plant.

When orchids are watered, they should be watered copiously. Water should be provided until it runs freely from the drainage holes. Not only does this soak the potting medium but it also flushes salts that naturally accumulate. At a minimum, try to thoroughly water plants at least once a month.

Watering frequency can be controlled by the choice of pot. For those who really like to water their plants or live in humid, rainy areas, clay pots, especially slotted pots are a good choice. Growers in drier climates or those who tend not to water often enough might want to use plastic pots to hold moisture longer.

FERTILIZER Orchids will grow and flower, given that their other requirements are met, for fairly long periods without fertilizer but you'll get better results with some level of fertilizing. Typically, plants are fertilized once a week during the summer and every two weeks in the autumn and winter. Regardless of the fertilizer that you choose to use, most experienced growers use no more than half the label-recommended strength. It's best to water first to wet the potting medium before you fertilize.

Fertilizers used on orchids should contain little or no urea. This is because soil organisms must first convert the nitrogen in urea to a form useable by plants, and because orchids do not grow in soil, this

conversion does not occur efficiently. The old conventional wisdom used to be that orchids grown in bark mixes needed to be fertilized with formulations high in nitrogen, i.e., 30-10-10. We now understand that these high-nitrogen fertilizers aren't necessary. For a more detailed discussion of fertilizer and its dependence on water quality, see the June 2003 and February 2008 issues of Orchids magazine or view copies of pertinent articles on line at the Society's Web site (www.aos.org).

OBSERVATION Most experienced growers will agree that observation is the most important key to growing orchids well. Examining your plants on a regular basis will allow you to adjust and correct any problems before they become severe. (*As pertinent now, as it was then - Reprinted with permission ORCHIDS VOL. 77 NO.8 AUGUST 2008*)

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>

Worth the Read - ORCHIDS February Preview

Here be Dragons - Fantastic New Catamodes Hybrids by Fred Clarke

In the February issue of ORCHIDS, Fred Clarke rolls out another insightful article on the wild world of Catasetinae hybrids. After reading about Catamodes, you will be yearning to grow some of your own! Once you see the beauty and learn the cultural needs of the Catasetinae you will want to give them a try.

This series of articles in ORCHIDS began June 2019 with The Catasetinae — Part 1 - The Cat's Meow: New Developments in Breeding and Growing Catasetums. August featured The Catasetinae — Part 2 - Clowesetums — Breeding Clowesias with Catasetums and October offered The Catasetinae — Part 3 - Breeding with Goblins — The Latest Developments in Mormodes Hybrids.

Don't miss out! Membership offers something for everyone - Coming in February 2020

- For the Novice - Artificial Light Intensity and Supplemental Lighting by Ray Barkalow
- Collector's Item - *Bulbophyllum beccarii* by Jerry Lee Fisher
- GREATIdeas - Foundations for Greenhouses by Jean Allen-Ikeson
- A New Lighting Option for Indoor Orchid Growing: T5 HO LED Replacements for Fluorescent Grow Lights by A'na Sa'tara
- *Liparis liliifolia* - A "lily" of an Orchid by Soraya Cates Parr
- *Lindleyana* - xCattlianthe dabeibaensis - A New Intergeneric Natural Hybrid in Colombia by Ruben Saulea, Andrea Niessen and Juan Carlos Uribe
- Book Review - Orchids as Aphrodisiac, Medicine or Food

LOOK for *your* awarded orchids in the sixteen-page awards gallery in each issue of ORCHIDS! The magazine awards gallery features all of the awards granted month by month in the previous year.

LOOK on the AOS website to find the **most recently awarded orchids!** Exhibits are also included in the latest awards gallery. Check it out to get some great ideas for your next display.
<https://secure.aos.org/orchid-awards.aspx>

**AOS members have exclusive access to thousands of awarded photos in OrchidPro!
Sign on to the AOS website. Click on your name on the top right side of the page to find the dropdown menu. Select OrchidPro. Be inspired!**





Pleurothallis Memoria Carlyle Luer 'Bryon' HCC | AOS (78 points)

Pleurothallis teaguei x *Pleurothallis bivalvis*

Award No: 20193059 **Date:** Dec 21, 2019 **Event:** Great Plains Center Monthly Judging **Judging Center:** Great Plains Judging Center **Exhibitor:** Bryon K. Rinke **Photographer:** Bryon K Rinke



***Maxillaria luteograndiflora* 'Windy Hill' HCC | AOS (77 points)**

Award No: 20193758 **Date:** Dec 14, 2019 **Event:** Mid-America Center Monthly Judging **Judging Center:** Mid-America Judging Center **Exhibitor:** Marilyn LeDoux **Photographer:** Matthew Nutt



American Orchid Society Show Trophy 'Howard P. Martin' ST | AOS (83 points)
Award No: 20196250 **Date:** Nov 09, 2019 **Event:** Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Show (Hamburg, NY) **Judging Center:** Toronto Judging Center **Exhibitor:** Howard Peter Martin **Photographer:** Ed Cott

Please send your questions and submissions for the AOS Corner to askmasc@verizon.net or affiliated_societies_committee@aos.org

Thanks for meeting me down at the Corner!

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